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(54) **METHODS AND TARGET ARCHITECTURE FOR ENABLING IP CARRIER PEERING**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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H04W 24/02 (2009.01)
H04L 12/26 (2006.01)
H04L 12/715 (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Methods and apparatus to achieve internetwork connectivity. Initiation is detected, by a first device on a first network, of an internet protocol (IP) connection with a second device on a second network, wherein the first network includes a plurality of client devices that are configured to send requests for inter-network connection information. A subset of the client devices are selected, wherein each of the subset of client devices are configured to query for connection information relating to the second network. The subset of devices are caused to query the at least one other network for the connection information relating to the second network. The connection information is received relating to the second network. The connection information is caused to be used in establishing the IP connection between the first device and the second device.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

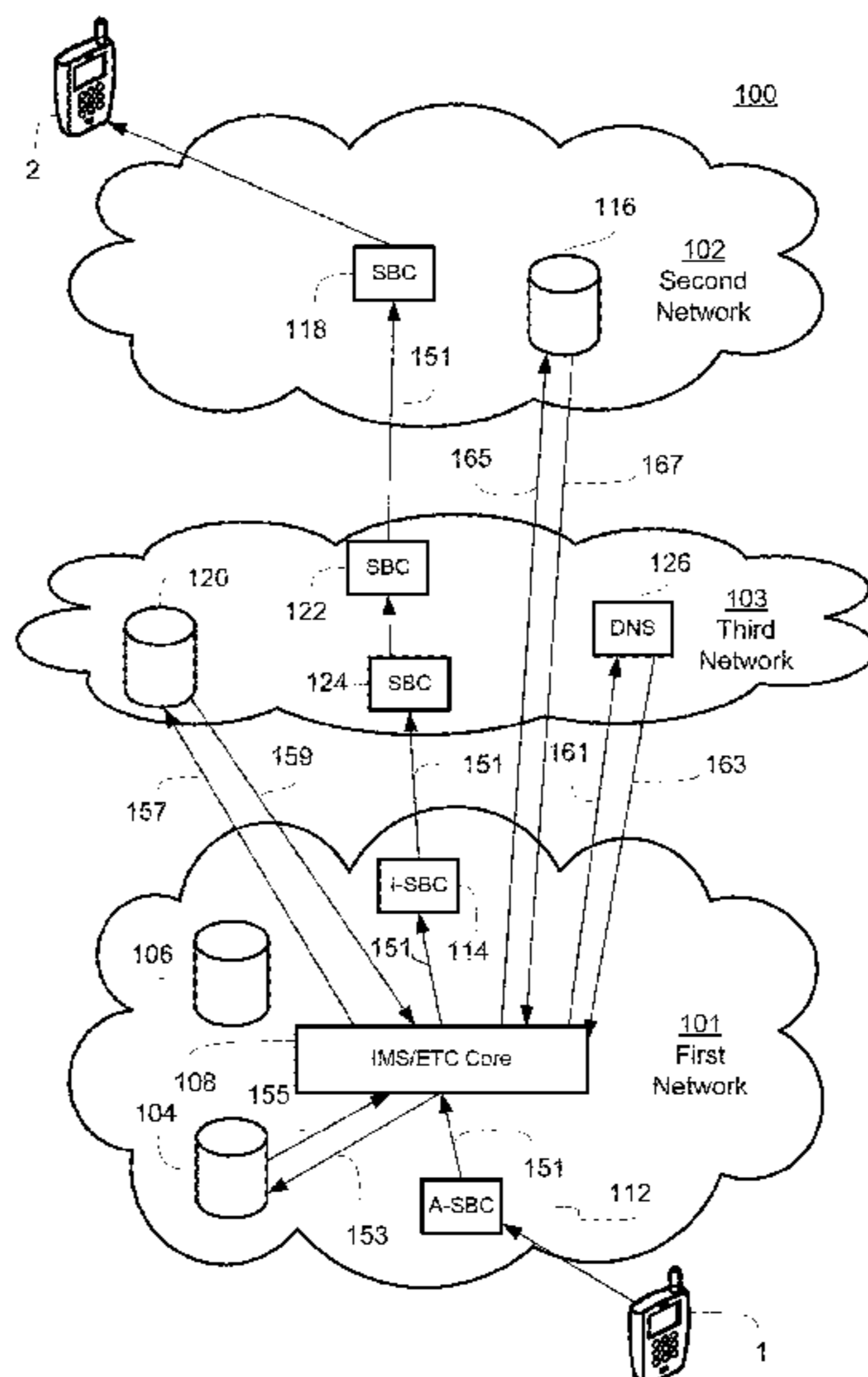
CPC **H04L 12/46** (2013.01); **H04L 12/4625** (2013.01); **H04L 12/4633** (2013.01); **H04L 43/16** (2013.01); **H04L 45/04** (2013.01); **H04W 24/02** (2013.01); **H04L 45/64** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H04L 12/46; H04L 43/16; H04L 45/745; H04W 24/02

See application file for complete search history.

16 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



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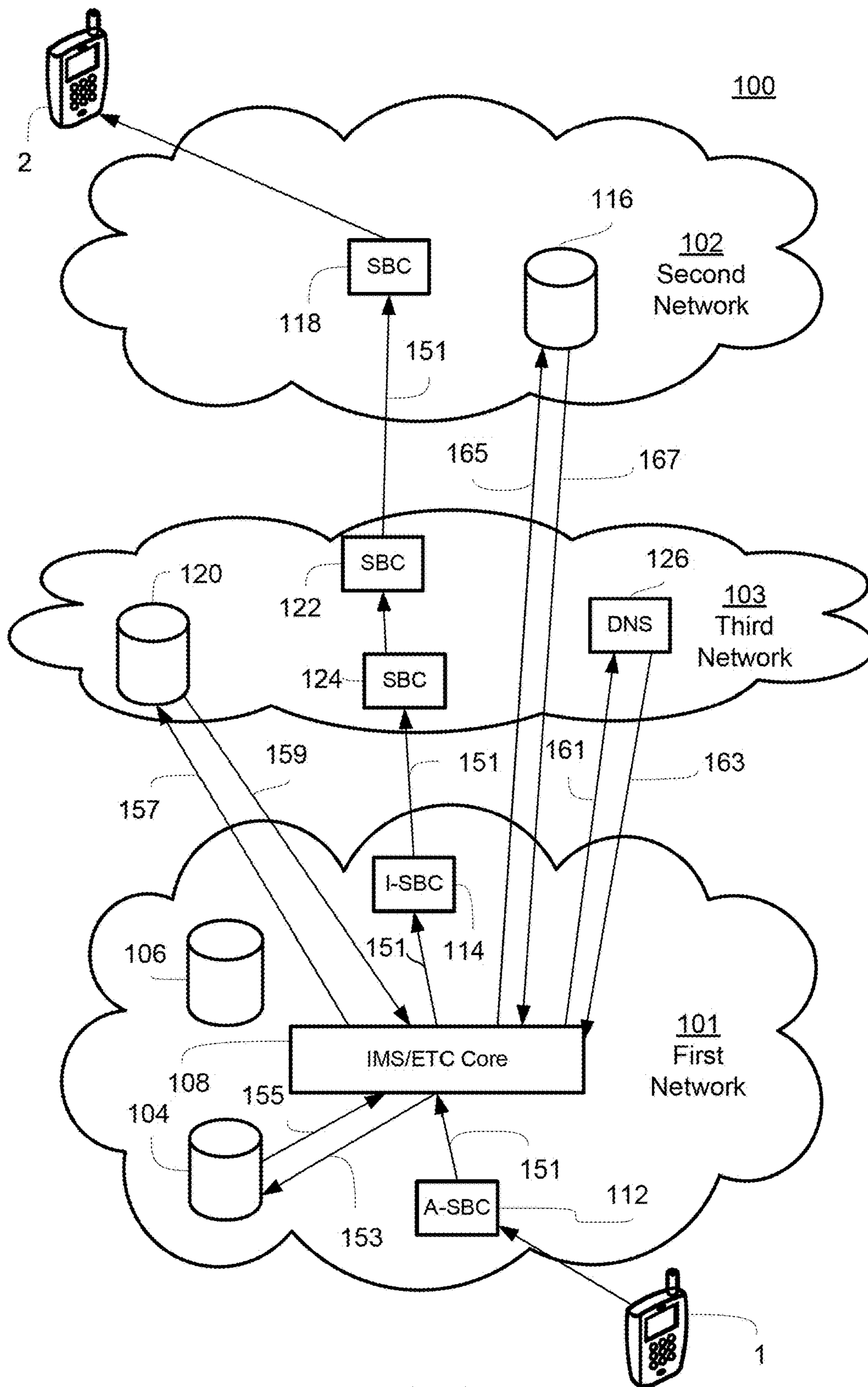


FIG. 1

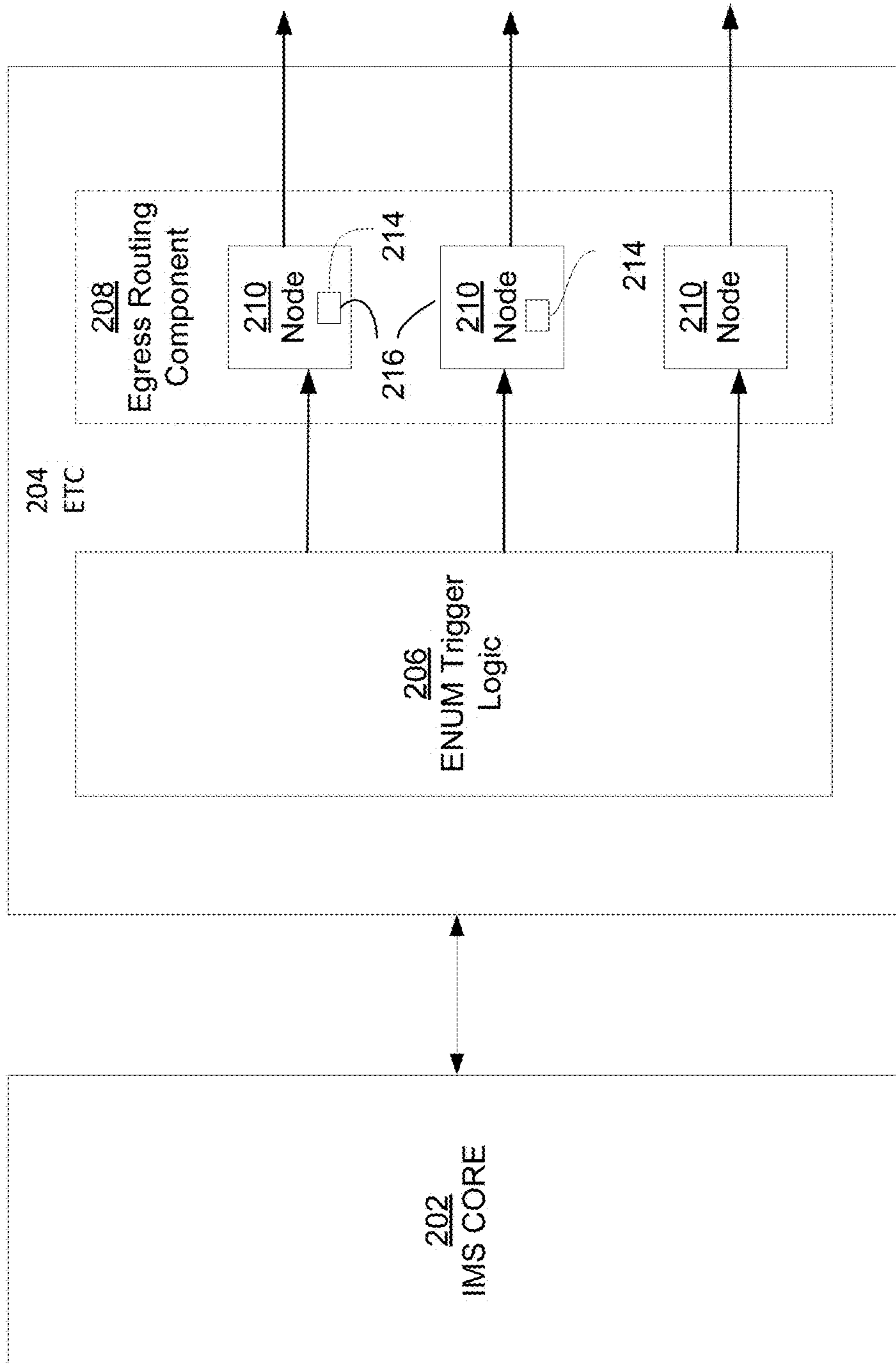


FIG. 2

300

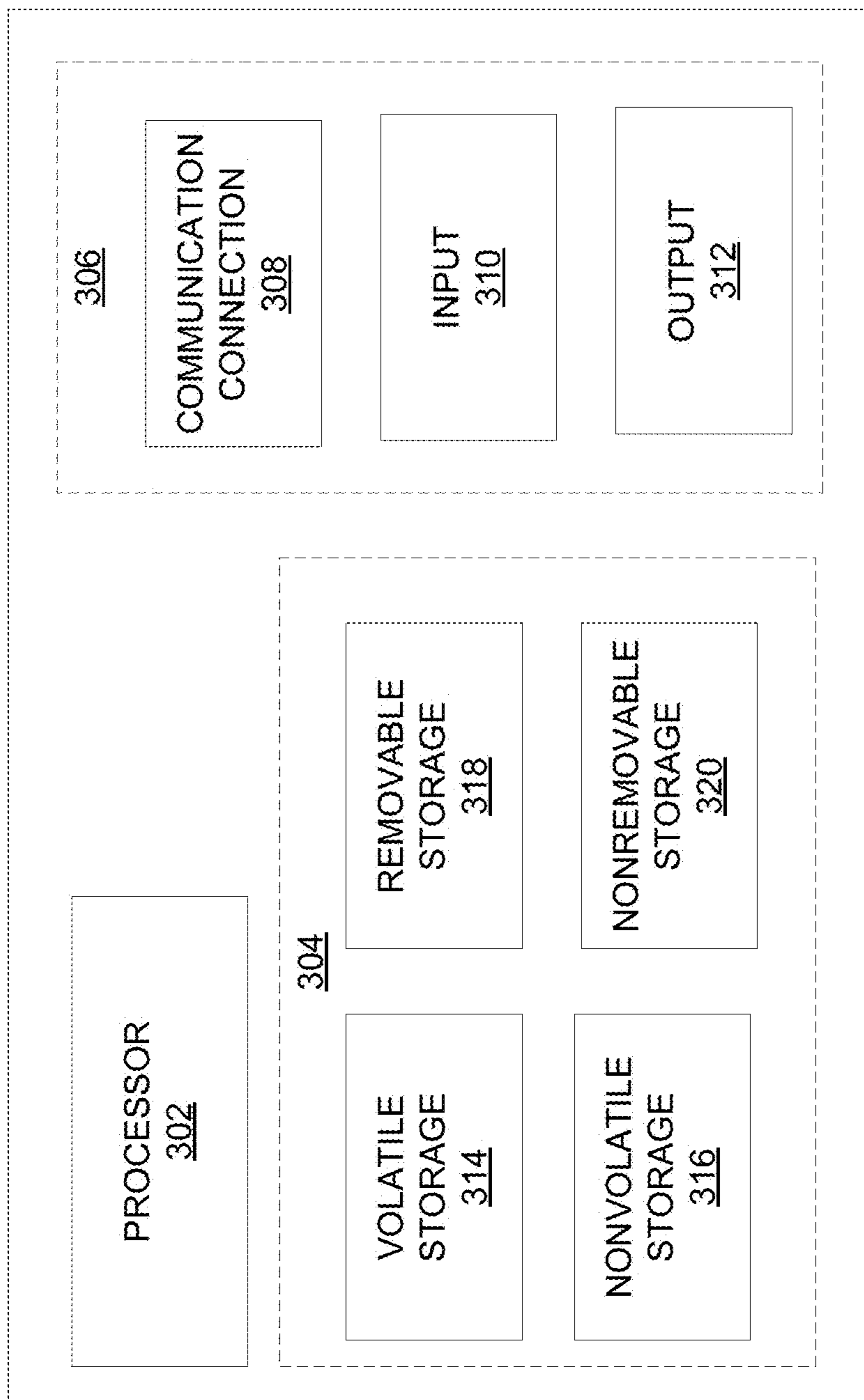


FIG. 3

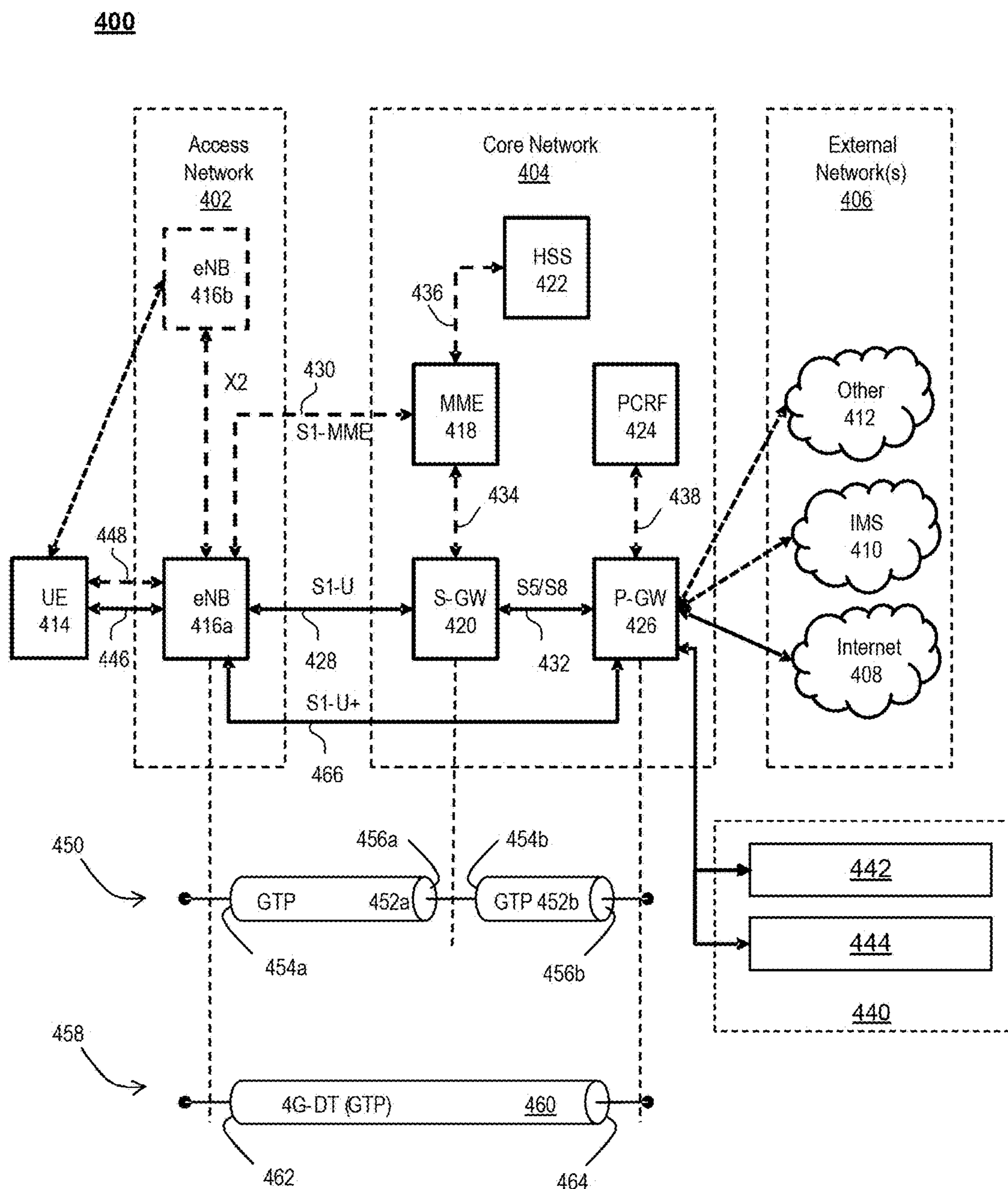


FIG. 4

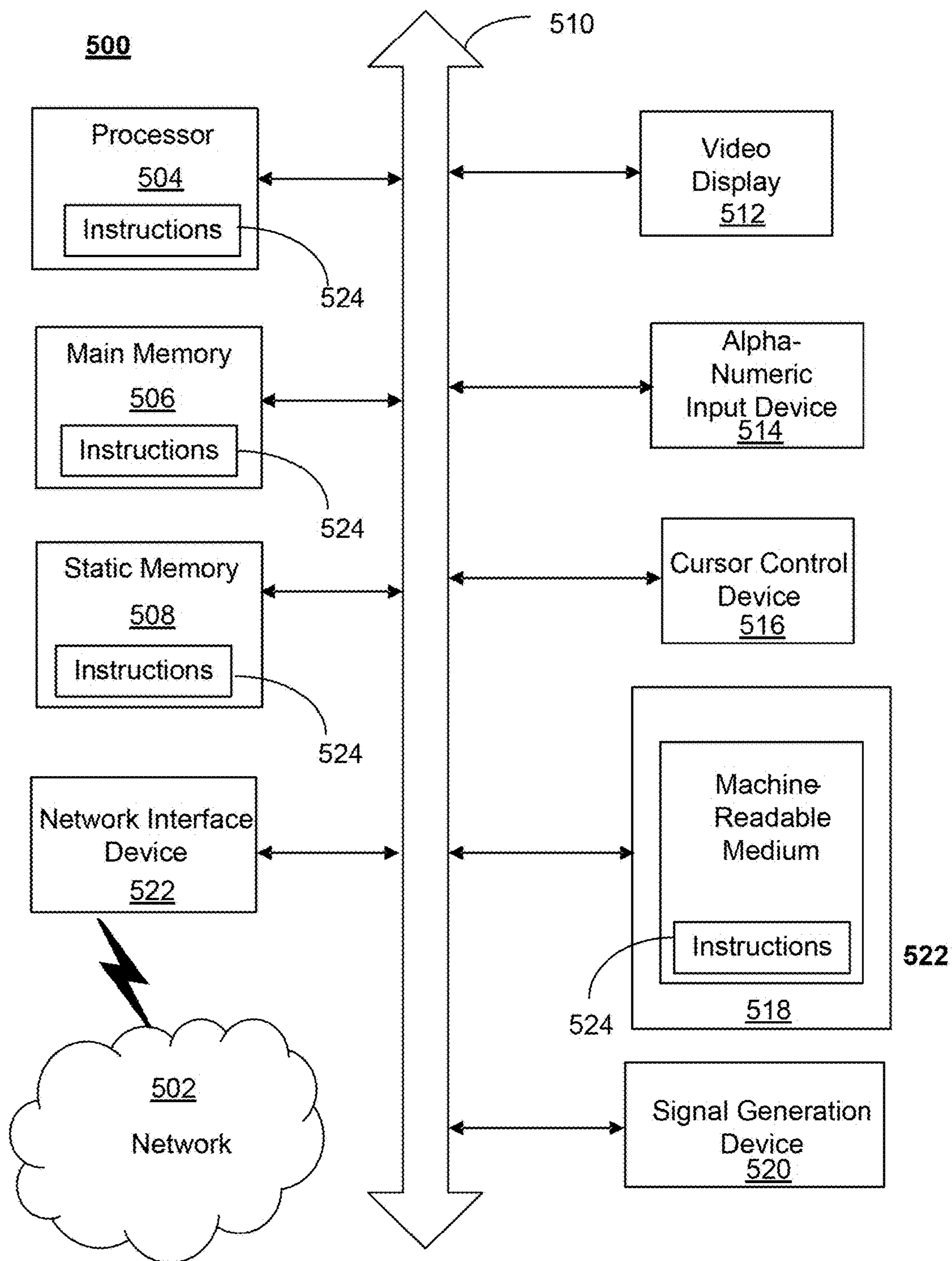


FIG. 5

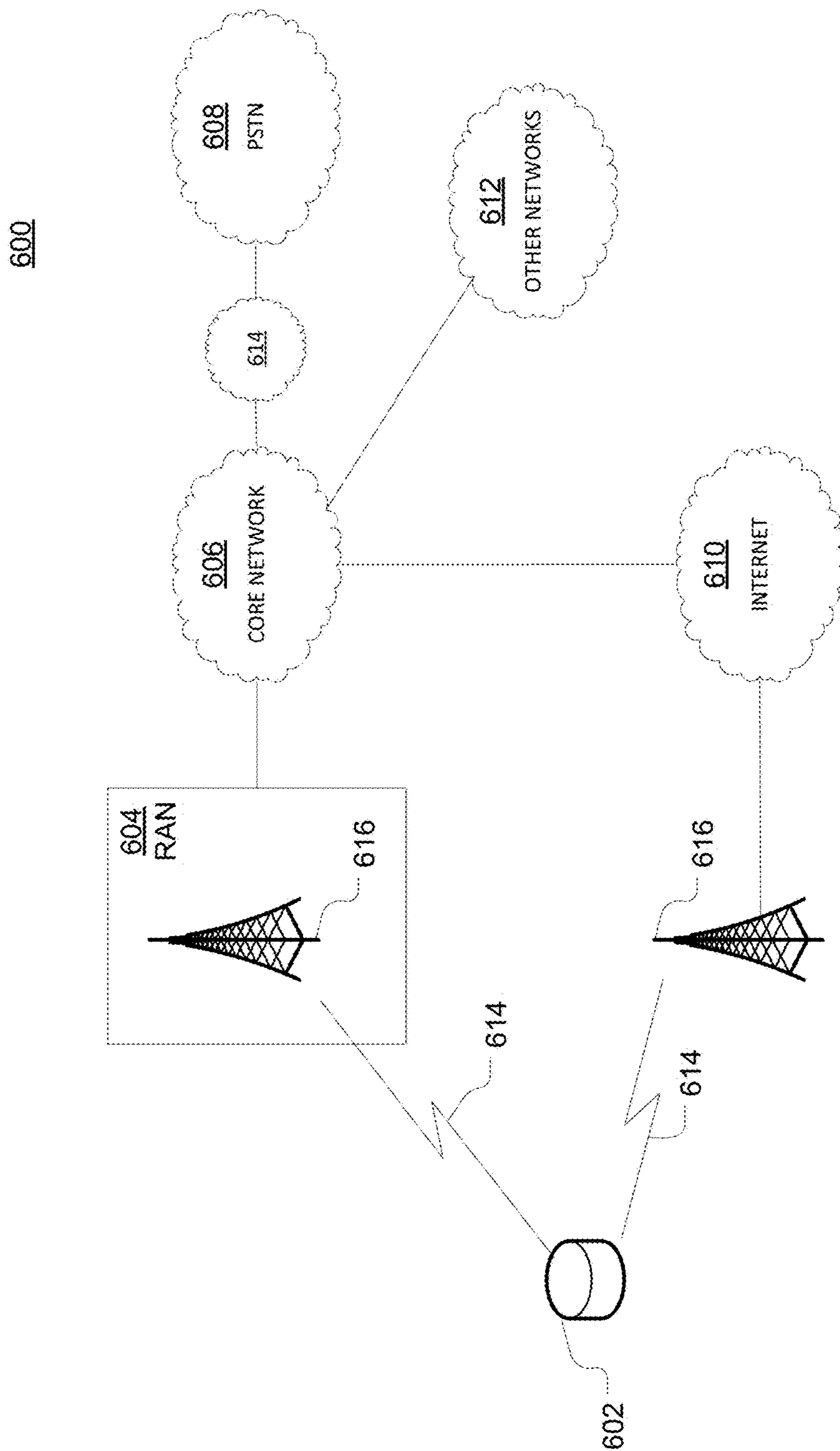


FIG. 6

700

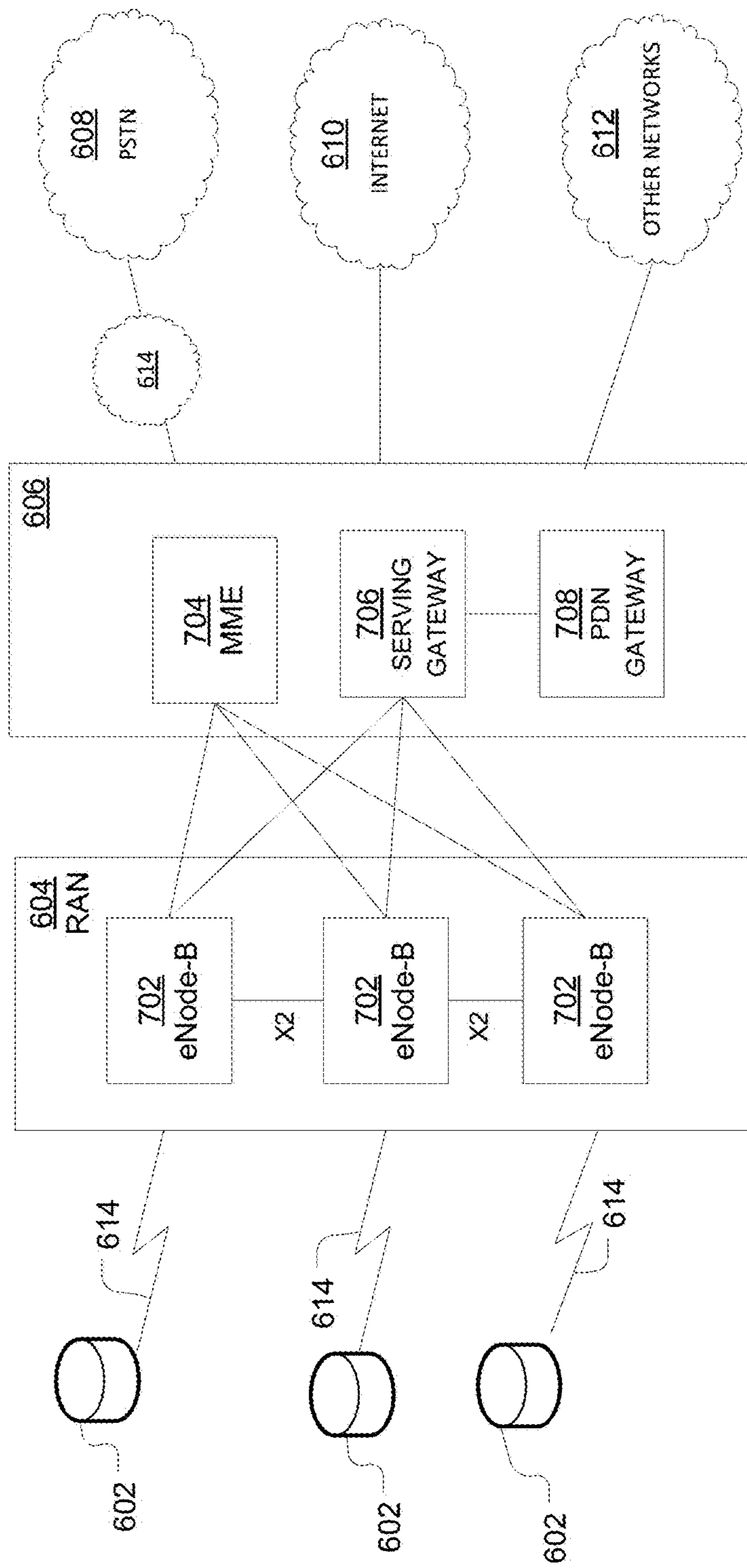


FIG. 7

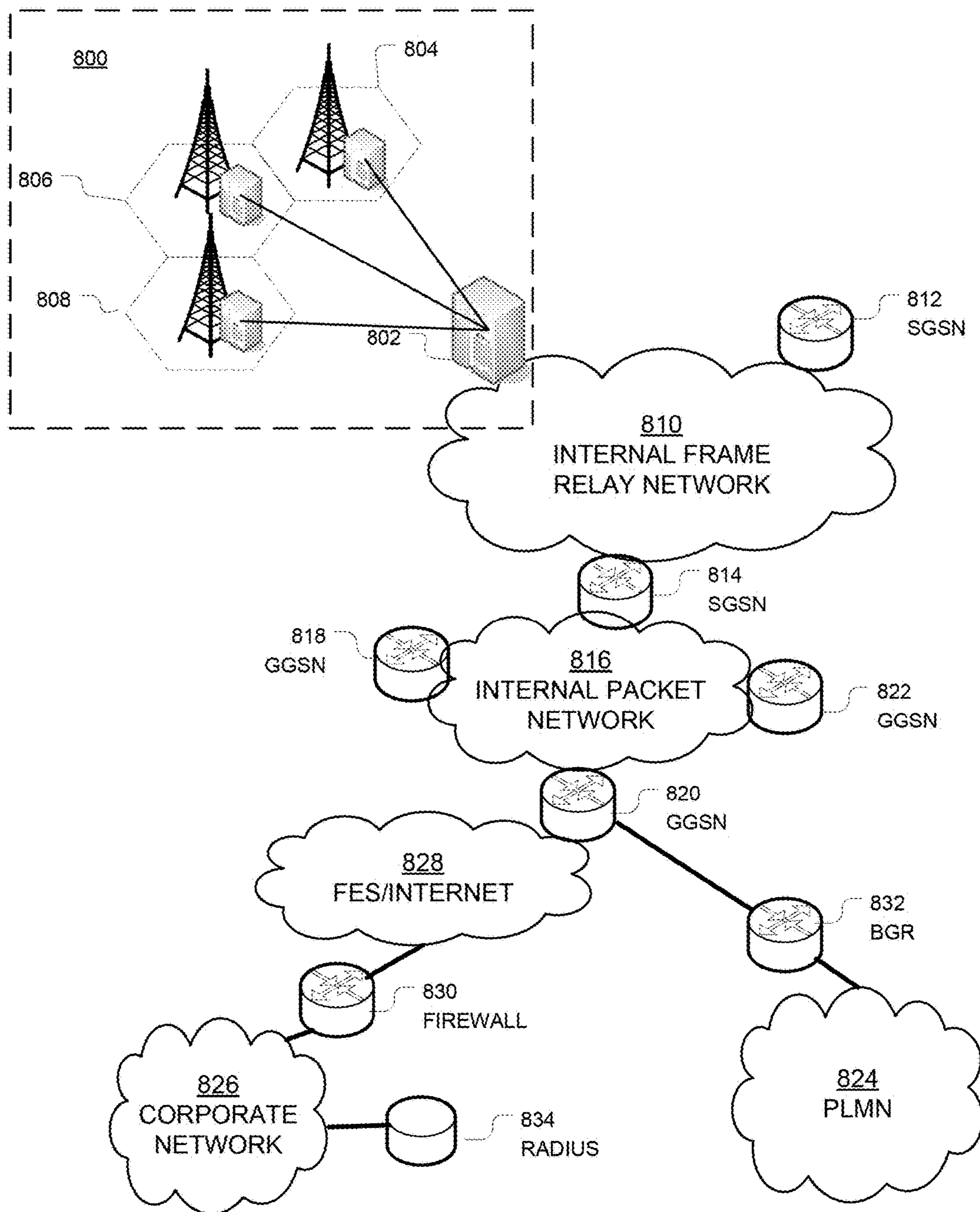


FIG. 8

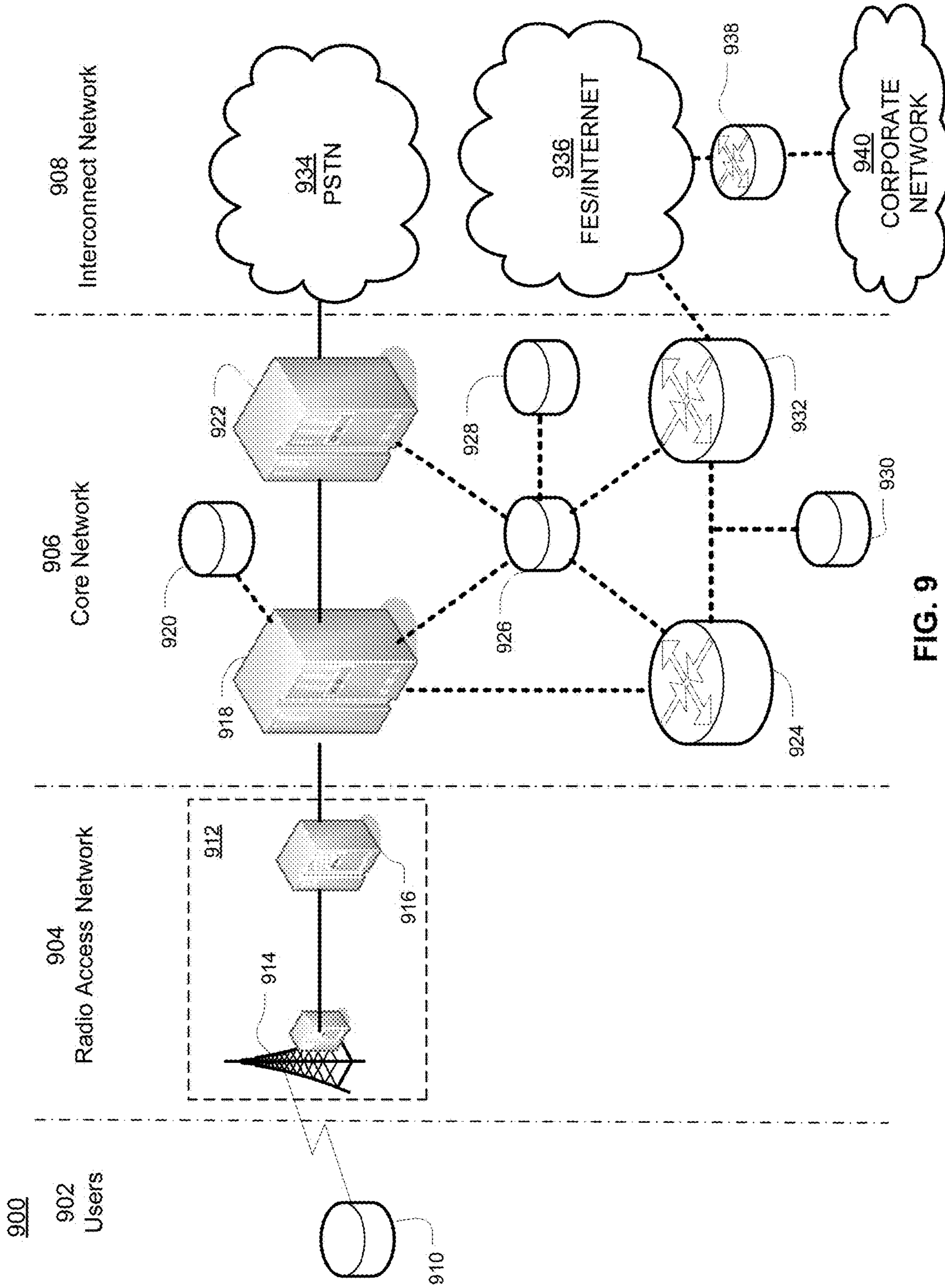


FIG. 9

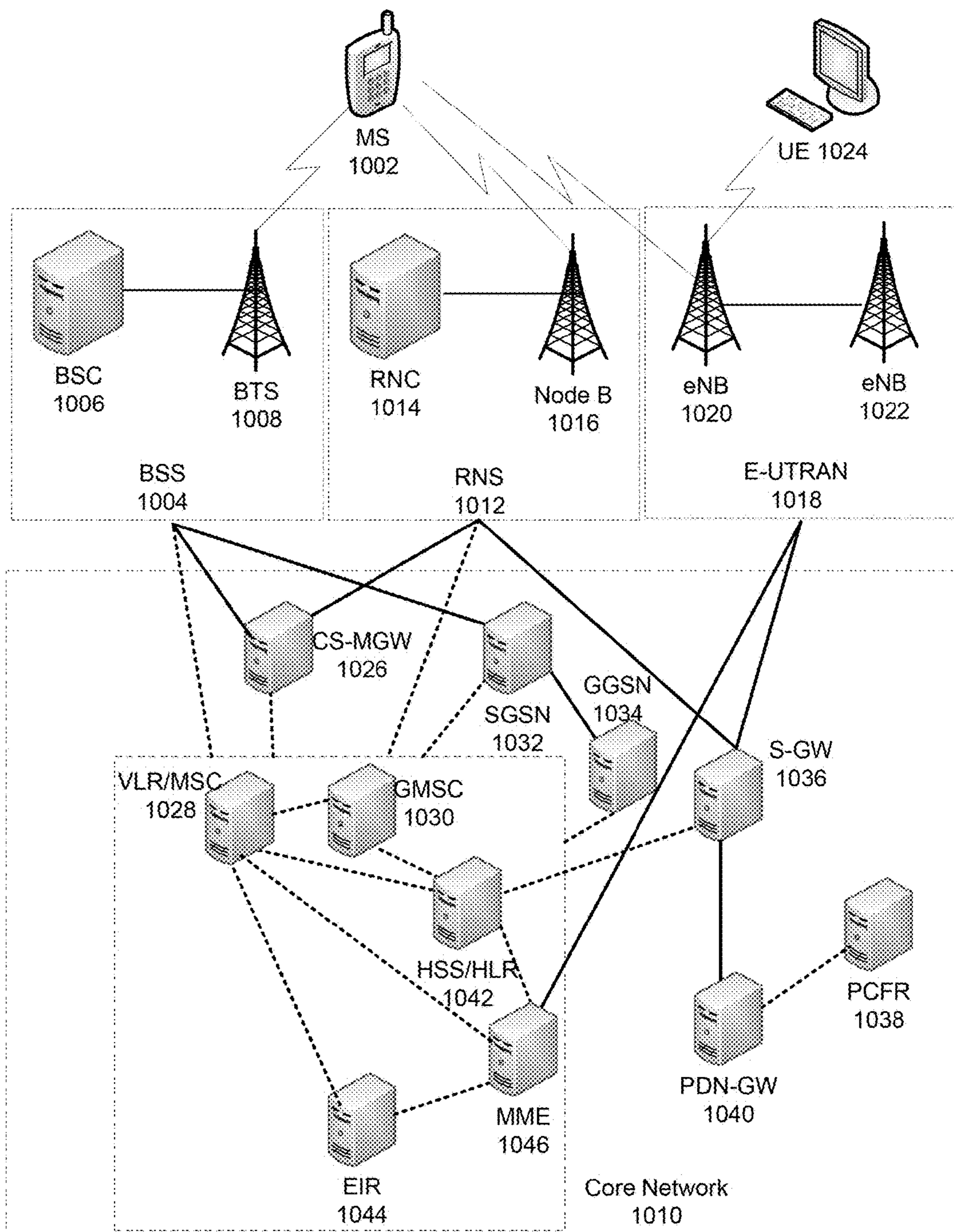


FIG. 10

METHODS AND TARGET ARCHITECTURE FOR ENABLING IP CARRIER PEERING

TECHNICAL FIELD

The technical field relates generally to communication networks and more particularly to Internet Protocol (IP) connections between IP carriers.

BACKGROUND

A large number of connection between devices, such as telephone calls, are now being carried via packet-switched networks. IP networks have evolved to allow users to send voice and data, including telephone calls, through packet-switched networks, such as the Internet, instead of through older networks like the PSTN. Accordingly, networks often utilize the Internet Protocol (IP), which is the basic transmission protocol used for Internet communications, to form these connections. For carriers to provide service to subscribers by using IP networks, however, it is necessary for networks to interconnect so that their subscribers can connect to each other.

Providing such interconnection generally involves a mechanism by which calls that are intended for disparate networks are sent through egress routing nodes of one network to gateway nodes of other networks. To the extent that one of the available networks recognizes that the destination device resides on it, the network will take steps to route the call to the destination device.

A problem exists, however, in that neither the originating network nor the recipient network have insight into the eventual call path. When the originating network detects initiation of call intended for a device on another network, it does not necessarily know the identity or the routing information of the recipient device. Accordingly, it must send call information to available networks and rely on the intended recipient network to take steps to complete the call. Similarly, the recipient network has no idea when or if a particular call initiated on another network will be intended for it. Accordingly, it must "listen" for all calls initiated by all available networks to insure that it does not miss a call that may be intended for a subscriber. This approach is costly because it expends system resources on the originating side by sending call requests to available networks regardless of whether all such networks are actually recipients and expends resources on the recipient side by requiring the monitoring of call requests by networks that are not intended recipients. Therefore, what is needed is an approach for efficient use of system resources while providing IP carrier interconnection.

SUMMARY

The disclosed systems, methods, and apparatuses that allow for efficient routing of IP based communications and connections between networks.

The present disclosure is directed at a method. In one embodiment, initiation is detected, by a first device on a first network, of an internet protocol (IP) connection with a second device on a second network, wherein the first network includes a plurality of client devices that are configured to send requests for inter-network connection information. A subset of the client devices are selected, wherein each of the subset of client devices are configured to query for connection information relating to the second network. The subset of devices are caused to query the at least one other

network for the connection information relating to the second network. The connection information is received relating to the second network. The connection information is caused to be used in establishing the IP connection between the first device and the second device.

The present disclosure is directed to an apparatus. In one embodiment, the apparatus may include a processor, and memory storing instructions that cause the processor to effectuate operations. The operations may include detecting initiation by a first device on a first network of an internet protocol (IP) connection with a second device on a second network, wherein the first network includes a plurality of client devices that are configured to send requests for inter-network connection information; selecting a subset of the client devices, wherein each of the subset of client devices are configured to query for connection information relating to the second network; causing the subset of devices to query the at least one other network for the connection information relating to the second network; receiving the connection information relating to the second network; and causing the connection information to be used in establishing the IP connection between the first device and the second device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Aspects of the herein described systems and methods are described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, which provide examples. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide an understanding of the variations in implementing the disclosed technology. However, the instant disclosure may take many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the examples set forth herein. Where practical, like numbers refer to like elements throughout.

FIG. 1 depicts a system and method for intercarrier routing of IP network connections through employment of the principles described herein.

FIG. 2 depicts one example of a core architecture employable in the system of FIG. 1

FIG. 3 is a schematic of an exemplary network device.

FIG. 4 depicts an exemplary communication system that provides wireless telecommunication services over wireless communication networks.

FIG. 5 depicts an exemplary communication system that provides wireless telecommunication services over wireless communication networks.

FIG. 6 is a diagram of an exemplary telecommunications system in which the disclosed methods and processes may be implemented.

FIG. 7 is an example system diagram of a radio access network and a core network.

FIG. 8 depicts an overall block diagram of an example packet-based mobile cellular network environment, such as a general packet radio service (GPRS) network.

FIG. 9 illustrates an exemplary architecture of a GPRS network.

FIG. 10 is a block diagram of an exemplary public land mobile network (PLMN).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to FIG. 1, a system 100 is shown that includes at least on instance of a device 1 operating on a first network 101, at least one instance of a device 2 operating on a second network 102, and a third network 103 interconnecting the

first network **101** and the second network **102**. In one example, first network **101** represents a network operated by a first carrier of IP based telecommunication services and second network **102** represents a network operated by a second carrier of IP based telecommunication services. Third network **103** in one example is an IP exchange (IPX) network. An IPX network in one example is generally a network operated by a plurality of network carriers to provide for inter-network exchange of data between carriers.

It should be noted that the depiction in FIG. **1** is provided for illustrative purposes only and not to limit the disclosure to the embodiment shown therein. The principles described herein are scalable to a greater or lesser number of networks and carriers than what are shown in FIG. **1**. For example, third network **103** may be omitted and the principles herein may be operated with respect to internetwork communication between first network **101** and second network **102**. Further, at least on instance of first network device **1** and at least one instance of second network device **2** are shown to describe illustrative operations, but many such devices may be operating throughout the networks comprising system **100**.

Referring further to FIG. **1**, first network device **1** and second network device **2** in one example are telecommunications devices that engage in network telecommunications to exchange data. Examples of such devices include network device **300** (FIG. **3**) and UE **414** (FIG. **4**). Such devices may also be referred to herein as subscribers, terminals or endpoints. Such devices will at times be initiating or originating devices and at times be recipient or terminating devices. For illustrative purposes only, first device **1** will be described as an originating device and second device **2** will be described as a recipient device. It should be understood, however, that their roles may be reversed.

Similarly, first network **101** will be described in greater detail than second network **102** and third network **103**. However, the hardware, software, architecture, and functionality of first network **101** are applicable to second network **102** and third network **103**. Finally, for brevity, an exhaustive network diagram has not been provided for each of the networks **101**, **102**, **103**, but it should be understood that the depiction of networks **101**, **102**, and **103** represent the hardware, software, architecture, and functionality of telecommunications networks known to those in the art. Finally, the block diagrams shown herein are for illustrative purposes only. Accordingly, certain functionality is shown as standalone whereas other functionality is combined. It should be understood that components shown in the figures and described herein may be combined or divided as part of a distributed processing environment. Exemplary hardware and network configurations applicable to system and the component therein is described in connection with FIGS. **3-10**.

Referring further to FIG. **1**, first network **101**, second network **102**, and third network **103** in one embodiment comprise a portion of an tElephone NUmber Mapping (ENUM) system infrastructure. ENUM is a suite of protocols and architecture designed by the Internet Engineering task force unify the E.164 telephone numbering system with the IP addressing system. The present disclosure will not provide an in-depth description of the ENUM standard, but will focus on those portions needed to describe the principles set forth herein. Nevertheless, an exemplary description of ENUM terminology, protocols, and infrastructure can be found in U.S. Pat. No. 8,792,481, entitled "Methods, systems, and computer program products for providing inter-carrier IP-based connections using a common tele-

phone number mapping architecture", which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

One characteristic of ENUM is a hierarchy of databases that are used by networks to identify routing information to establish connections between the various devices that are residing thereon. A multiple-tiered database structure is used to provide carriers with the ability to form connections between various devices without necessarily sharing network architecture and routing information.

Carriers using ENUM have access to an indirect lookup method to obtain Naming Authority Pointer Resource (NAPTR) records associated with various devices residing on other networks. A NAPTR record is received from a network-based Domain Name Server (DNS) database and is indexed on the E.164 telephone number of a device. A NAPTR record includes, among other things, information that designates how and where a device can be contacted. For example, a NAPTR record may designate what types of communications a device can establish, such as a VoIP connection using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), a voice connection using the E.164 telephone number, a short message service (SMS) or multimedia message service (MMS) session, etc. The NAPTR may provide a uniform resource identifier (URI) that identifies how to contact the terminal to use a selected service, and may designate a priority for each of the various connection methods. ENUM infrastructure includes a plurality of tiered databases that are utilized to locate subscriber devices on the various networks making up the infrastructure. For the purposes of the present disclosure, three such databases will now be described.

First, a private ENUM database generally provides routing information for subscribers within a single network operated by a particular communication service provider. If a request is received from an originating device on a network to call a device having a particular number, the network will first check the private ENUM database. If the number resides in the private ENUM database, then the recipient device also resides on the network and the two devices may be connected. If the private ENUM database does not have a record for the number, then it is understood that the recipient device resides on an external network. Accordingly, the originating network needs a mechanism to determine on what network the recipient device resides and how to connect with the recipient device. Tier 1 and Tier 2 ENUM databases are used for this purpose. One principle described herein deviates from this general approach.

A Tier 1 ENUM database in one example may provide name server (NS) records that provide routing information that is known to the Tier 1 database, but is not known to a private ENUM database. For example, a Tier 1 database may identify network databases of other networks, which are known to the Tier 1 database along with ranges of numbers managed by the these databases. These other databases are referred to as Tier 2 databases. Accordingly, a Tier 1 database may provide the name of a network and a Tier 2 database that manages a number associated with a particular device. The originating network may then contact the appropriate Tier 2 database to receive information needed to complete a call.

In one embodiment, a Tier 2 ENUM database may directly process queries from many different communications providers. For example, one network may include the functionality to issue queries to Tier 2 ENUM databases of other networks to obtain routing information for calls addressed to terminals within other networks. The routing information provided by the Tier 2 ENUM database may not provide full routing information in response to a query.

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Rather, a Tier 2 ENUM database may only provide information sufficient to identify a network entry point or gateway that can be used to route a communication to a particular terminal. Thus, a Tier 2 ENUM database may provide information that is sufficient to allow another carrier to route a call to a terminal without providing complete routing information to the other carrier.

Referring now to FIG. 1, an exemplary description of system 100 is now provided for illustrative purposes. As noted, particular aspects of system 100 that are needed to describe certain principles of the present disclosure are shown for illustrative purposes, and other components of system 100 are included within this disclosure without being shown in the FIG. 1. System 100 depicts an illustrative embodiment of an ENUM infrastructure in accordance with the principles described herein. It should be noted that although the principles described herein are directed to a specific ENUM infrastructure, they are also generally applicable to various other networks and system infrastructures.

Referring further to FIG. 1, first network 101 in one example includes private ENUM database 104, Tier 2 ENUM database 106, IP multimedia system (IMS) and egress transfer component (ETC) core 108 (referred to further herein as IMS/ETC Core 108), access edge session boarder controller (A-SBC) 112, and interconnected session border controller (I-SBC) 114.

In one embodiment, private ENUM database 104 provides routing data solely for terminal devices (e.g. device 1) that operate on first network 101. In one embodiment, private ENUM database 104 may include routing data for terminal devices that reside on certain other networks. For example, the carriers operating first network 101 and second network 102 may partner to create efficient interconnectivity between their networks. Accordingly, private ENUM database 104 may provide routing data for first network devices 1 and second network devices 2. In one example, the routing data for first network devices 1 may include enough routing data to effect a connection between two or more first network devices 1 operating on first network 101. In one example, the routing data for second network devices 2 may be sufficient routing data to establish a connection between a first network device 1 and a second network device 2. In another example, the routing data for second network device 2 may provide a pointer or indicator identifying where such data may be found. For instance, private ENUM database 104 may include an entry for a second network device 2 pointing to Tier 1 ENUM database 120 of third network 103 and/or Tier 2 ENUM database 116 of second network 102.

Referring further to FIG. 1, Tier 2 ENUM database 106 provides routing data for second network devices 2 to establish connections with devices on other networks, such as first network devices 1. For example, if a second network device 2 were to initiate a call with first network device 1, Tier 2 ENUM database 106 may provide routing data to second network 102 to establish a call or connection between the first network device 1 and the second network device 2. In one example, this routing data may not represent complete routing data, but may provide an address for a component for first network device 1 to utilize in connecting with second network device 2. It should be noted that the database configuration depicted in FIG. 1 are provided for illustrative purposes only and other configurations are possible. For instance, Private ENUM database 104 and Tier 2 ENUM database 106 could be the same database.

Referring still to FIG. 1, IMS/ETC core 108 comprises the hardware and/or software components that provide the architectural framework and functionality for delivering IP

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multimedia communications services. IMS/ETC core 108 handles the establishment, maintenance and take-down of IP communication sessions. Thus, in first network 101, IMS/ETC core 108 handles the processing associated with establishing and maintaining IP connections, as well as the use of routing for non-IP connections. In addition IMS/ETC core 108 includes egress transfer functionality that is employed to establish internetwork connectivity between device operating on different networks.

Referring now to FIG. 2, an exemplary description of one embodiment of IMS/ETC core 108 will now be described for illustrative purposes. IMS/ETC Core 108 in one example comprises IMS Core 202 and ETC 204. IMS Core 202 in one example provides the functionality by which call IP connections are established, maintained, and terminated on first network. For example, a call between two first network devices 1 may be established, maintained, and terminated by IMS Core 202. In addition, IMS core 202 may process internet calls upon receipt of routing information from the sending and recipient network.

ETC 204 in one example provides ENUM trigger logic 206 and egress routing component 208. ENUM trigger logic 206 in one embodiment comprises the functionality and/or rules which determine the form and/or function of the processing of calls to other networks. For example, if a first network device 1 initiates a call to a second network device 2, IMS Core 202 may not recognize the number of the second network device 2 or otherwise realize that the call is for a device outside the first network 101. IMS Core 202 will pass the processing of the call to ENUM trigger logic 206. ENUM trigger logic 206 processes the call based on certain criteria, which will be discussed further herein.

In one embodiment, ENUM trigger logic 206 processes calls in conjunction with egress routing component 208. Egress routing component 208 in one embodiment comprises a plurality of nodes 210. The nodes 210 are configured to communicate with other networks to query for and receive routing information such that inter-network connections may be established. In one example, nodes 210 may be breakout gateway control function (BGCF) nodes through which requests may be sent to other networks, such as second network 102 and third network 103, for routing information. In one embodiment, a subset 216 of nodes 210 may include client device 214. In one example, client device 214 is an ENUM client. Client device 214 in one embodiment provides functionality for node to communicate with other networks in accordance with one or more protocols.

For example, client device 214 may provide functionality for communicating with second network 102 or third network 103 in a specified manner. Therefore, if trigger logic were to receive notification of a call being initiated between a first network device 1 and a second network device 2, then ENUM trigger logic 206 may utilize the subset 216 of nodes 210 that include client device 214 to process the call. This would minimize use of resources because only those nodes 210 configured for operation with second network 102 and/or third network 103 would be utilized.

In contrast, if a call were to originate from a first network device 1 intended for another network (not shown), then ENUM trigger logic 206 may invoke all nodes 210 to communicate with all available networks to process the call. Such an approach would not minimize resources because certain nodes 210 would be used in a non-directed way.

Referring further to FIG. 2, it should be noted that the rules used by trigger logic 206 to determine the protocol for processing a particular call may vary. Criteria that may be used include, but are not limited to, originating call attri-

butes (e.g. calling number, calling location, originating service type), destination call attributes (e.g. called number, country code, national number), and other network eligibility criteria (e.g. cost, time of day, and priority). For example, trigger logic **206** may route all calls intended for a particular network or destination to a subset **216** of nodes **210** with a client device **214** configured to process such calls. In another example, network analytics may determine that a high percentage of calls take place between first network **101** and second network **102** during a particular time of day. Accordingly, trigger logic **206** may route a percentage of all calls during the time of day to a subset **216** of nodes **210** with a client device **214** configured to request and receive routing information relating to network **102**.

It should be noted that the preceding examples were provided for illustrative purposes. ENUM trigger logic **206** may use other criteria to distribute calls among nodes **210**. The decision of which specific nodes **210** to include in subset **216** and/or to use for a given call may be based on various call distribution techniques, including but not limited to sequential, proportional, equal (round robin), and the like. Furthermore, the nodes **210** within subset **216** that are configured with various client devices **214** may change over time. For example, nodes **210** may be either manually or automatically allocated and/or removed depending on demand. Nodes **210** with the client device **214** may be added to egress routing component **208** to ensure sufficient query capacity is available for one or more networks, e.g., during periods of higher network call volumes or upon failure or maintenance outages of previously deployed nodes **210**. Similarly, unneeded nodes **210**, with or without a client device **214**, may be removed during periods of lower call volume or to remove temporarily added capacity. For example, network analytics may be performed and client devices **214** may be added or subtracted depending on whether network traffic exceeds or does not exceed a predetermined threshold. In addition, client devices **214** may be selectively added or removed from nodes **210** based on network analytics.

Finally, it should be noted that the function of nodes **210** may be divided. For instance, a BGCF may be separated from the client device **214**. For example, there may be a plurality of BGCF devices and a plurality of client devices **214**. Client devices **214** could then invoke BGCF devices as needed. Similarly, if trigger logic **206** were to determine to send general carrier query, trigger logic **206** may bypass client devices **214** and invoke BGCF devices as needed.

The methods to convey the topology of egress routing component **208** to trigger logic **206** may include, but are not limited to, direct provisioning of eligible Carrier ENUM Client node IP addresses or use of Fully Qualified Domain Names (fqdns) to identify the eligible Carrier ENUM Client nodes **210** and/or client devices **214**.

To summarize, ETC **204** in one embodiment comprises logic and/or rules that determine whether or not a call from an originating first network device **1** to a recipient device should trigger a query to a Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 ENUM database to identify routing information on another network. In one embodiment, if ETC **204** determines that a call should trigger a query to a Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 database on another network, then ETC **204** may select a subset of the egress client nodes **210** that are configured to query for connection information relating to the other networks. ETC **204** in one embodiment causes the subset of egress devices to query the at least one other network for the connection information relating to the second network. In another embodiment, ETC **204** may determine that a general carrier query should be

performed for a particular call in which case all available nodes **210** may be used to request routing information from all available carriers. ETC **204** in one embodiment receives the connection information relating to the second network. In one embodiment, ETC **204** sends the connection information to IMS core **202** which uses the connection information in establishing an IP connection between the first network device **1** and the recipient.

Referring back to FIG. **1**, first network **101** in one embodiment includes A-SBC **112** and I-SBC **114** which are session border controllers (SBCs) used to access the first network **101**. In general, a SBC is a device that is used by VoIP providers to control signaling and media streams involved in setting up, conducting and taking down VoIP calls. Thus, an SBC may be placed in the VoIP signaling path between the calling and called terminals. In addition to call setup and takedown, an SBC can provide, among other things, access control, and data conversion services for the calls they control. In some cases, an SBC can act as a user agent for a terminal within its network, which allows a network to exercise additional control over calls within the network.

Referring further to FIG. **1**, second network **102** is shown as including a Tier 2 ENUM database **116** and a SBC **118**. It should be understood, however, that second network **102** would also include components that are not shown, such as other SBCs, ENUM databases, and IMS cores. Tier 2 ENUM database **116** provides routing information for devices residing on second network **102** that may be used to establish calls with devices on other networks. SBC **118** is used by second network **102** to set up, control, and take down calls for devices on second network **102**.

Referring further to FIG. **1**, third network **103** in one embodiment includes a Tier 1 ENUM database **120**, SBCs **122**, **124**, and DNS **126**. Tier 1 ENUM database **120** in one embodiment provides routing data for Tier 2 ENUM databases of networks connected to third network **103** (e.g. network **101** and network **102**). SBCs **122**, **124** provide access to third network **103**, and DNS **103** provides a domain name server that includes information relating to Tier 2 ENUM databases identified in Tier 1 ENUM database **120**.

Referring now to FIG. **1**, an exemplary description of a method of operation of system **100** will now be provided for illustrative purposes. In one embodiment first network device **1** accesses first network **101** through A-SBC **112** and initiates a call **151** by inputting a E.164 number. IMS/ETC Core **108** sends a query **153** to private ENUM **104** for the called E.164. Private ENUM **104** sends a response **155** to ETC **110**.

In one example, if the call were for another first network device **1**, the response **155** may include the routing data for device **1** to be connected to the other first network device **101**. IMS/ETC Core could then complete the call between the two first network devices **1**.

In another example, the call may be intended for a second network device **2**. Accordingly, the response **155** may include a pointer or some other indicator that second network device **2** resides on second network **102**. In another example, private ENUM **104** may have records identifying that routing information for second network devices can be found on Tier 1 ENUM **120** of third network. Such a response **155** may indicate call should be routed accordingly.

Accordingly the response **155** may indicate that the second network device **2** resides on the second network **102**. Trigger logic **206** of IMS/ETC Core **108** would then in accordance to its rules select subset **216** of nodes **210** to

forward an ENUM query 157. In one embodiment, the ENUM query 157 would be populated with information such that the query 157 would bypass the private ENUM 104 and go to Tier 1 ENUM 120 of third network 103. The Tier 1 ENUM 120 sends a response 159. In one embodiment, the response 159 includes the NS records of Tier 2 ENUM 116 of the second network 102. IMS/ETC Core 110 would then send a request 161 for DNS 126 to provide it with destination information for the Tier 2 ENUM 116. DNS 126 would resolve the Tier 2 ENUM 116 of the second network 102 and send a response 163 to IMS/ETC Core 108. IMS/ETC Core 108 sends a query 165 to Tier 2 ENUM 116. The Tier 2 ENUM 116 identifies the entry for device 2 and sends a response 167. In one embodiment, the response 167 includes an NAPTR with SBC 118 through which second network 102 wants to accept calls from first network. IMS/ETC Core 108 routes the call 151 through I-SBC 114 to SBC 124 of third network 103. Third network in response routes call 151 through SBC 122 to SBC 118 of second network and to device 2. It should be noted that the above call flow is provided for illustrative purposes only. Other flows are also encompassed by this disclosure. For instance, first network 101 may send the call 151 directly to second network 102, e.g., through SBC 114 and SBC 118.

Referring to FIG. 1, another example of intercarrier connectivity is described for illustrative purposes. Certain carriers may elect to form third network 103 as an IPX network to facilitate inter-network connectivity between their subscribers. Third network 103 would host Tier 1 ENUM 120, which would include NS record of the Tier 2 ENUM 116 of participating networks, including second network 102. E.164 calling information may be stored in first network's private ENUM 104 as a new domain, e.g., xyz.net instead firstnetwork.net. Upon initiation of a call to a second network device 102, the private ENUM 104 response 155 would include the domain "xyz.net. IMS/ETC Core 108 resolves xyz.net to a subset 216 of nodes 210 with client device 214 and routes the call to those nodes 210. Nodes 210 will initiate an ENUM query to Tier 1 ENUM 120. In one example, the query may include the domain e164enum.net. Tier 1 ENUM 120 will return NS records of second network 102 Tier 2 ENUM 116. IMS/ETC Core 108 resolve second network Tier 2 ENUM 116 using DNS infrastructure 126 of third network. IMS/ETC Core 108 then queries Tier 2 ENUM 116 for routing data. The Tier 2 ENUM 116 responds with SBC 118 to complete the call.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of network device 300 that may be connected to or comprise a component of cellular network 112 or wireless network 114. Network device 300 may comprise hardware or a combination of hardware and software. The functionality to facilitate telecommunications via a telecommunications network may reside in one or combination of network devices 300. Network device 300 depicted in FIG. 3 may represent or perform functionality of an appropriate network device 300, or combination of network devices 300, such as, for example, a component or various components of a cellular broadcast system wireless network, a processor, a server, a gateway, a node, a mobile switching center (MSC), a short message service center (SMSC), an ALFS, a gateway mobile location center (GMLC), a radio access network (RAN), a serving mobile location center (SMLC), or the like, or any appropriate combination thereof. It is emphasized that the block diagram depicted in FIG. 3 is exemplary and not intended to imply a limitation to a specific implementation or configuration. Thus, network device 300 may be implemented in a single device or multiple devices (e.g., single server or multiple

servers, single gateway or multiple gateways, single controller or multiple controllers). Multiple network entities may be distributed or centrally located. Multiple network entities may communicate wirelessly, via hard wire, or any appropriate combination thereof.

Network device 300 may comprise a processor 302 and a memory 304 coupled to processor 302. Memory 304 may contain executable instructions that, when executed by processor 302, cause processor 302 to effectuate operations associated with mapping wireless signal strength. As evident from the description herein, network device 300 is not to be construed as software per se.

In addition to processor 302 and memory 304, network device 300 may include an input/output system 306. Processor 302, memory 304, and input/output system 306 may be coupled together (coupling not shown in FIG. 3) to allow communications therebetween. Each portion of network device 300 may comprise circuitry for performing functions associated with each respective portion. Thus, each portion may comprise hardware, or a combination of hardware and software. Accordingly, each portion of network device 300 is not to be construed as software per se. Input/output system 306 may be capable of receiving or providing information from or to a communications device or other network entities configured for telecommunications. For example input/output system 306 may include a wireless communications (e.g., 3G/4G/GPS) card. Input/output system 306 may be capable of receiving or sending video information, audio information, control information, image information, data, or any combination thereof. Input/output system 306 may be capable of transferring information with network device 300. In various configurations, input/output system 306 may receive or provide information via any appropriate means, such as, for example, optical means (e.g., infrared), electromagnetic means (e.g., RF, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth®, Zig-Bee®), acoustic means (e.g., speaker, microphone, ultrasonic receiver, ultrasonic transmitter), or a combination thereof. In an example configuration, input/output system 306 may comprise a Wi-Fi finder, a two-way GPS chipset or equivalent, or the like, or a combination thereof.

Input/output system 306 of network device 300 also may contain a communication connection 308 that allows network device 300 to communicate with other devices, network entities, or the like. Communication connection 308 may comprise communication media. Communication media typically embody computer-readable instructions, data structures, program modules or other data in a modulated data signal such as a carrier wave or other transport mechanism and includes any information delivery media. By way of example, and not limitation, communication media may include wired media such as a wired network or direct-wired connection, or wireless media such as acoustic, RF, infrared, or other wireless media. The term computer-readable media as used herein includes both storage media and communication media. Input/output system 306 also may include an input device 310 such as keyboard, mouse, pen, voice input device, or touch input device. Input/output system 306 may also include an output device 312, such as a display, speakers, or a printer.

Processor 302 may be capable of performing functions associated with telecommunications, such as functions for processing broadcast messages, as described herein. For example, processor 302 may be capable of, in conjunction with any other portion of network device 300, determining a type of broadcast message and acting according to the broadcast message type or content, as described herein.

Memory **304** of network device **300** may comprise a storage medium having a concrete, tangible, physical structure. As is known, a signal does not have a concrete, tangible, physical structure. Memory **304**, as well as any computer-readable storage medium described herein, is not to be construed as a signal. Memory **304**, as well as any computer-readable storage medium described herein, is not to be construed as a transient signal. Memory **304**, as well as any computer-readable storage medium described herein, is not to be construed as a propagating signal. Memory **304**, as well as any computer-readable storage medium described herein, is to be construed as an article of manufacture.

Memory **304** may store any information utilized in conjunction with telecommunications. Depending upon the exact configuration or type of processor, memory **304** may include a volatile storage **314** (such as some types of RAM), a nonvolatile storage **316** (such as ROM, flash memory), or a combination thereof. Memory **304** may include additional storage (e.g., a removable storage **318** or a nonremovable storage **320**) including, for example, tape, flash memory, smart cards, CD-ROM, DVD, or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, USB-compatible memory, or any other medium that can be used to store information and that can be accessed by network device **300**. Memory **304** may comprise executable instructions that, when executed by processor **302**, cause processor **302** to effectuate operations to map signal strengths in an area of interest.

FIG. 4 illustrates a functional block diagram depicting one example of an LTE-EPS network architecture **400** related to the current disclosure. In particular, the network architecture **400** disclosed herein is referred to as a modified LTE-EPS architecture **400** to distinguish it from a traditional LTE-EPS architecture.

An example modified LTE-EPS architecture **400** is based at least in part on standards developed by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), with information available at www.3gpp.org. In one embodiment, the LTE-EPS network architecture **400** includes an access network **402**, a core network **404**, e.g., an EPC or Common BackBone (CBB) and one or more external networks **406**, sometimes referred to as PDN or peer entities. Different external networks **406** can be distinguished from each other by a respective network identifier, e.g., a label according to DNS naming conventions describing an access point to the PDN. Such labels can be referred to as Access Point Names (APN). External networks **406** can include one or more trusted and non-trusted external networks such as an internet protocol (IP) network **408**, an IP multimedia subsystem (IMS) network **410**, and other networks **412**, such as a service network, a corporate network, or the like.

Access network **402** can include an LTE network architecture sometimes referred to as Evolved Universal mobile Telecommunication system Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA) and evolved UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN). Broadly, access network **402** can include one or more communication devices, commonly referred to as UE **414**, and one or more wireless access nodes, or base stations **416a**, **416b**. During network operations, at least one base station **416** communicates directly with UE **414**. Base station **416** can be an evolved Node B (e-NodeB), with which UE **414** communicates over the air and wirelessly. UEs **414** can include, without limitation, wireless devices, e.g., satellite communication systems, portable digital assistants (PDAs), laptop computers, tablet devices and other mobile devices (e.g., cellular telephones, smart appliances,

and so on). UEs **414** can connect to eNBs **416** when UE **414** is within range according to a corresponding wireless communication technology.

UE **414** generally runs one or more applications that engage in a transfer of packets between UE **414** and one or more external networks **406**. Such packet transfers can include one of downlink packet transfers from external network **406** to UE **414**, uplink packet transfers from UE **414** to external network **406** or combinations of uplink and downlink packet transfers. Applications can include, without limitation, web browsing, VoIP, streaming media and the like. Each application can pose different Quality of Service (QoS) requirements on a respective packet transfer. Different packet transfers can be served by different bearers within core network **404**, e.g., according to parameters, such as the QoS.

Core network **404** uses a concept of bearers, e.g., EPS bearers, to route packets, e.g., IP traffic, between a particular gateway in core network **404** and UE **414**. A bearer refers generally to an IP packet flow with a defined QoS between the particular gateway and UE **414**. Access network **402**, e.g., E-UTRAN, and core network **404** together set up and release bearers as required by the various applications. Bearers can be classified in at least two different categories: (i) minimum guaranteed bit rate bearers, e.g., for applications, such as VoIP; and (ii) non-guaranteed bit rate bearers that do not require guarantee bit rate, e.g., for applications, such as web browsing.

In one embodiment, the core network **404** includes various network entities, such as MME **418**, SGW **420**, Home Subscriber Server (HSS) **422**, Policy and Charging Rules Function (PCRF) **424** and PGW **426**. In one embodiment, MME **418** comprises a control node performing a control signaling between various equipment and devices in access network **402** and core network **404**. The protocols running between UE **414** and core network **404** are generally known as Non-Access Stratum (NAS) protocols.

For illustration purposes only, the terms MME **418**, SGW **420**, HSS **422** and PGW **426**, and so on, can be server devices, but may be referred to in the subject disclosure without the word "server." It is also understood that any form of such servers can operate in a device, system, component, or other form of centralized or distributed hardware and software. It is further noted that these terms and other terms such as bearer paths and/or interfaces are terms that can include features, methodologies, and/or fields that may be described in whole or in part by standards bodies such as the 3GPP. It is further noted that some or all embodiments of the subject disclosure may in whole or in part modify, supplement, or otherwise supersede final or proposed standards published and promulgated by 3GPP.

According to traditional implementations of LTE-EPS architectures, SGW **420** routes and forwards all user data packets. SGW **420** also acts as a mobility anchor for user plane operation during handovers between base stations, e.g., during a handover from first eNB **416a** to second eNB **416b** as may be the result of UE **414** moving from one area of coverage, e.g., cell, to another. SGW **420** can also terminate a downlink data path, e.g., from external network **406** to UE **414** in an idle state, and trigger a paging operation when downlink data arrives for UE **414**. SGW **420** can also be configured to manage and store a context for UE **414**, e.g., including one or more of parameters of the IP bearer service and network internal routing information. In addition, SGW **420** can perform administrative functions, e.g., in a visited network, such as collecting information for charging (e.g., the volume of data sent to or received from the

user), and/or replicate user traffic, e.g., to support a lawful interception. SGW 420 also serves as the mobility anchor for interworking with other 3GPP technologies such as universal mobile telecommunication system (UMTS).

At any given time, UE 414 is generally in one of three different states: detached, idle, or active. The detached state is typically a transitory state in which UE 414 is powered on but is engaged in a process of searching and registering with network 402. In the active state, UE 414 is registered with access network 402 and has established a wireless connection, e.g., radio resource control (RRC) connection, with eNB 416. Whether UE 414 is in an active state can depend on the state of a packet data session, and whether there is an active packet data session. In the idle state, UE 414 is generally in a power conservation state in which UE 414 typically does not communicate packets. When UE 414 is idle, SGW 420 can terminate a downlink data path, e.g., from one peer entity 406, and triggers paging of UE 414 when data arrives for UE 414. If UE 414 responds to the page, SGW 420 can forward the IP packet to eNB 416a.

HSS 422 can manage subscription-related information for a user of UE 414. For example, HSS 422 can store information such as authorization of the user, security requirements for the user, quality of service (QoS) requirements for the user, etc. HSS 422 can also hold information about external networks 406 to which the user can connect, e.g., in the form of an APN of external networks 406. For example, MME 418 can communicate with HSS 422 to determine if UE 414 is authorized to establish a call, e.g., a voice over IP (VoIP) call before the call is established.

PCRF 424 can perform QoS management functions and policy control. PCRF 424 is responsible for policy control decision-making, as well as for controlling the flow-based charging functionalities in a policy control enforcement function (PCEF), which resides in PGW 426. PCRF 424 provides the QoS authorization, e.g., QoS class identifier and bit rates that decide how a certain data flow will be treated in the PCEF and ensures that this is in accordance with the user's subscription profile.

PGW 426 can provide connectivity between the UE 414 and one or more of the external networks 406. In illustrative network architecture 400, PGW 426 can be responsible for IP address allocation for UE 414, as well as one or more of QoS enforcement and flow-based charging, e.g., according to rules from the PCRF 424. PGW 426 is also typically responsible for filtering downlink user IP packets into the different QoS-based bearers. In at least some embodiments, such filtering can be performed based on traffic flow templates. PGW 426 can also perform QoS enforcement, e.g., for guaranteed bit rate bearers. PGW 426 also serves as a mobility anchor for interworking with non-3GPP technologies such as CDMA2000.

Within access network 402 and core network 404 there may be various bearer paths/interfaces, e.g., represented by solid lines 428 and 430. Some of the bearer paths can be referred to by a specific label. For example, solid line 428 can be considered an S1-U bearer and solid line 432 can be considered an S5/S8 bearer according to LTE-EPS architecture standards. Without limitation, reference to various interfaces, such as S1, X2, S5, S8, S11 refer to EPS interfaces. In some instances, such interface designations are combined with a suffix, e.g., a "U" or a "C" to signify whether the interface relates to a "User plane" or a "Control plane." In addition, the core network 404 can include various signaling bearer paths/interfaces, e.g., control plane paths/interfaces represented by dashed lines 430, 434, 436, and 438. Some of the signaling bearer paths may be referred to by a specific

label. For example, dashed line 430 can be considered as an S1-MME signaling bearer, dashed line 434 can be considered as an S11 signaling bearer and dashed line 436 can be considered as an S6a signaling bearer, e.g., according to LTE-EPS architecture standards. The above bearer paths and signaling bearer paths are only illustrated as examples and it should be noted that additional bearer paths and signaling bearer paths may exist that are not illustrated.

Also shown is a novel user plane path/interface, referred to as the S1-U+ interface 466. In the illustrative example, the S1-U+ user plane interface extends between the eNB 416a and PGW 426. Notably, S1-U+ path/interface does not include SGW 420, a node that is otherwise instrumental in configuring and/or managing packet forwarding between eNB 416a and one or more external networks 406 by way of PGW 426. As disclosed herein, the S1-U+ path/interface facilitates autonomous learning of peer transport layer addresses by one or more of the network nodes to facilitate a self-configuring of the packet forwarding path. In particular, such self-configuring can be accomplished during handovers in most scenarios so as to reduce any extra signaling load on the S/PGWs 420, 426 due to excessive handover events.

In some embodiments, PGW 426 is coupled to storage device 440, shown in phantom. Storage device 440 can be integral to one of the network nodes, such as PGW 426, for example, in the form of internal memory and/or disk drive. It is understood that storage device 440 can include registers suitable for storing address values. Alternatively or in addition, storage device 440 can be separate from PGW 426, for example, as an external hard drive, a flash drive, and/or network storage.

Storage device 440 selectively stores one or more values relevant to the forwarding of packet data. For example, storage device 440 can store identities and/or addresses of network entities, such as any of network nodes 418, 420, 422, 424, and 426, eNBs 416 and/or UE 414. In the illustrative example, storage device 440 includes a first storage location 442 and a second storage location 444. First storage location 442 can be dedicated to storing a Currently Used Downlink address value 442. Likewise, second storage location 444 can be dedicated to storing a Default Downlink Forwarding address value 444. PGW 426 can read and/or write values into either of storage locations 442, 444, for example, managing Currently Used Downlink Forwarding address value 442 and Default Downlink Forwarding address value 444 as disclosed herein.

In some embodiments, the Default Downlink Forwarding address for each EPS bearer is the SGW S5-U address for each EPS Bearer. The Currently Used Downlink Forwarding address" for each EPS bearer in PGW 426 can be set every time when PGW 426 receives an uplink packet, e.g., a GTP-U uplink packet, with a new source address for a corresponding EPS bearer. When UE 414 is in an idle state, the "Current Used Downlink Forwarding address" field for each EPS bearer of UE 414 can be set to a "null" or other suitable value.

In some embodiments, the Default Downlink Forwarding address is only updated when PGW 426 receives a new SGW S5-U address in a predetermined message or messages. For example, the Default Downlink Forwarding address is only updated when PGW 426 receives one of a Create Session Request, Modify Bearer Request and Create Bearer Response messages from SGW 420.

As values 442, 444 can be maintained and otherwise manipulated on a per bearer basis, it is understood that the storage locations can take the form of tables, spreadsheets,

lists, and/or other data structures generally well understood and suitable for maintaining and/or otherwise manipulate forwarding addresses on a per bearer basis.

It should be noted that access network **402** and core network **404** are illustrated in a simplified block diagram in FIG. **4**. In other words, either or both of access network **402** and the core network **404** can include additional network elements that are not shown, such as various routers, switches and controllers. In addition, although FIG. **4** illustrates only a single one of each of the various network elements, it should be noted that access network **402** and core network **404** can include any number of the various network elements. For example, core network **404** can include a pool (i.e., more than one) of MMEs **418**, SGWs **420** or PGWs **426**.

In the illustrative example, data traversing a network path between UE **414**, eNB **416a**, SGW **420**, PGW **426** and external network **406** may be considered to constitute data transferred according to an end-to-end IP service. However, for the present disclosure, to properly perform establishment management in LTE-EPS network architecture **400**, the core network, data bearer portion of the end-to-end IP service is analyzed.

An establishment may be defined herein as a connection set up request between any two elements within LTE-EPS network architecture **400**. The connection set up request may be for user data or for signaling. A failed establishment may be defined as a connection set up request that was unsuccessful. A successful establishment may be defined as a connection set up request that was successful.

In one embodiment, a data bearer portion comprises a first portion (e.g., a data radio bearer **446**) between UE **414** and eNB **416a**, a second portion (e.g., an S1 data bearer **428**) between eNB **416a** and SGW **420**, and a third portion (e.g., an S5/S8 bearer **432**) between SGW **420** and PGW **426**. Various signaling bearer portions are also illustrated in FIG. **4**. For example, a first signaling portion (e.g., a signaling radio bearer **448**) between UE **414** and eNB **416a**, and a second signaling portion (e.g., S1 signaling bearer **430**) between eNB **416a** and MME **418**.

In at least some embodiments, the data bearer can include tunneling, e.g., IP tunneling, by which data packets can be forwarded in an encapsulated manner, between tunnel endpoints. Tunnels, or tunnel connections can be identified in one or more nodes of network **400**, e.g., by one or more of tunnel endpoint identifiers, an IP address and a user data-gram protocol port number. Within a particular tunnel connection, payloads, e.g., packet data, which may or may not include protocol related information, are forwarded between tunnel endpoints.

An example of first tunnel solution **450** includes a first tunnel **452a** between two tunnel endpoints **454a** and **456a**, and a second tunnel **452b** between two tunnel endpoints **454b** and **456b**. In the illustrative example, first tunnel **452a** is established between eNB **416a** and SGW **420**. Accordingly, first tunnel **452a** includes a first tunnel endpoint **454a** corresponding to an S1-U address of eNB **416a** (referred to herein as the eNB S1-U address), and second tunnel endpoint **456a** corresponding to an S1-U address of SGW **420** (referred to herein as the SGW S1-U address). Likewise, second tunnel **452b** includes first tunnel endpoint **454b** corresponding to an S5-U address of SGW **420** (referred to herein as the SGW S5-U address), and second tunnel endpoint **456b** corresponding to an S5-U address of PGW **426** (referred to herein as the PGW S5-U address).

In at least some embodiments, first tunnel solution **450** is referred to as a two tunnel solution, e.g., according to the

GPRS Tunneling Protocol User Plane (GTPv1-U based), as described in 3GPP specification TS 29.281, incorporated herein in its entirety. It is understood that one or more tunnels are permitted between each set of tunnel end points.

For example, each subscriber can have one or more tunnels, e.g., one for each PDP context that they have active, as well as possibly having separate tunnels for specific connections with different quality of service requirements, and so on.

An example of second tunnel solution **458** includes a single or direct tunnel **460** between tunnel endpoints **462** and **464**. In the illustrative example, direct tunnel **460** is established between eNB **416a** and PGW **426**, without subjecting packet transfers to processing related to SGW **420**. Accordingly, direct tunnel **460** includes first tunnel endpoint **462** corresponding to the eNB S1-U address, and second tunnel endpoint **464** corresponding to the PGW S5-U address. Packet data received at either end can be encapsulated into a payload and directed to the corresponding address of the other end of the tunnel. Such direct tunneling avoids processing, e.g., by SGW **420** that would otherwise relay packets between the same two endpoints, e.g., according to a protocol, such as the GTP-U protocol.

In some scenarios, direct tunneling solution **458** can forward user plane data packets between eNB **416a** and PGW **426**, by way of SGW **420**. That is, SGW **420** can serve a relay function, by relaying packets between two tunnel endpoints **416a**, **426**. In other scenarios, direct tunneling solution **458** can forward user data packets between eNB **416a** and PGW **426**, by way of the S1 U+ interface, thereby bypassing SGW **420**.

Generally, UE **414** can have one or more bearers at any one time. The number and types of bearers can depend on applications, default requirements, and so on. It is understood that the techniques disclosed herein, including the configuration, management and use of various tunnel solutions **450**, **458**, can be applied to the bearers on an individual bases. That is, if user data packets of one bearer, say a bearer associated with a VoIP service of UE **414**, then the forwarding of all packets of that bearer are handled in a similar manner. Continuing with this example, the same UE **414** can have another bearer associated with it through the same eNB **416a**. This other bearer, for example, can be associated with a relatively low rate data session forwarding user data packets through core network **404** simultaneously with the first bearer. Likewise, the user data packets of the other bearer are also handled in a similar manner, without necessarily following a forwarding path or solution of the first bearer. Thus, one of the bearers may be forwarded through direct tunnel **458**; whereas, another one of the bearers may be forwarded through a two-tunnel solution **450**.

FIG. **5** depicts an exemplary diagrammatic representation of a machine in the form of a computer system **500** within which a set of instructions, when executed, may cause the machine to perform any one or more of the methods described above. One or more instances of the machine can operate, for example, as processor **302**, UE **414**, eNB **416**, MME **418**, SGW **420**, HSS **422**, PCRF **424**, PGW **426** and other devices of FIGS. **1**, **2**, and **4**. In some embodiments, the machine may be connected (e.g., using a network **502**) to other machines. In a networked deployment, the machine may operate in the capacity of a server or a client user machine in a server-client user network environment, or as a peer machine in a peer-to-peer (or distributed) network environment.

The machine may comprise a server computer, a client user computer, a personal computer (PC), a tablet, a smart phone, a laptop computer, a desktop computer, a control

system, a network router, switch or bridge, or any machine capable of executing a set of instructions (sequential or otherwise) that specify actions to be taken by that machine. It will be understood that a communication device of the subject disclosure includes broadly any electronic device that provides voice, video or data communication. Further, while a single machine is illustrated, the term “machine” shall also be taken to include any collection of machines that individually or jointly execute a set (or multiple sets) of instructions to perform any one or more of the methods discussed herein.

Computer system **500** may include a processor (or controller) **504** (e.g., a central processing unit (CPU)), a graphics processing unit (GPU, or both), a main memory **506** and a static memory **508**, which communicate with each other via a bus **510**. The computer system **500** may further include a display unit **512** (e.g., a liquid crystal display (LCD), a flat panel, or a solid state display). Computer system **500** may include an input device **514** (e.g., a keyboard), a cursor control device **516** (e.g., a mouse), a disk drive unit **518**, a signal generation device **520** (e.g., a speaker or remote control) and a network interface device **522**. In distributed environments, the embodiments described in the subject disclosure can be adapted to utilize multiple display units **512** controlled by two or more computer systems **500**. In this configuration, presentations described by the subject disclosure may in part be shown in a first of display units **512**, while the remaining portion is presented in a second of display units **512**.

The disk drive unit **518** may include a tangible computer-readable storage medium **524** on which is stored one or more sets of instructions (e.g., software **526**) embodying any one or more of the methods or functions described herein, including those methods illustrated above. Instructions **526** may also reside, completely or at least partially, within main memory **506**, static memory **508**, or within processor **504** during execution thereof by the computer system **500**. Main memory **506** and processor **504** also may constitute tangible computer-readable storage media.

As shown in FIG. 6, telecommunication system **600** may include wireless transmit/receive units (WTRUs) **602**, a RAN **604**, a core network **606**, a public switched telephone network (PSTN) **608**, the Internet **610**, or other networks **612**, though it will be appreciated that the disclosed examples contemplate any number of WTRUs, base stations, networks, or network elements. Each WTRU **602** may be any type of device configured to operate or communicate in a wireless environment. For example, a WTRU may comprise drone **102**, a mobile device, network device **300**, or the like, or any combination thereof. By way of example, WTRUs **602** may be configured to transmit or receive wireless signals and may include a UE, a mobile station, a mobile device, a fixed or mobile subscriber unit, a pager, a cellular telephone, a PDA, a smartphone, a laptop, a netbook, a personal computer, a wireless sensor, consumer electronics, or the like. WTRUs **602** may be configured to transmit or receive wireless signals over an air interface **614**.

Telecommunication system **600** may also include one or more base stations **616**. Each of base stations **616** may be any type of device configured to wirelessly interface with at least one of the WTRUs **602** to facilitate access to one or more communication networks, such as core network **606**, PSTN **608**, Internet **610**, or other networks **612**. By way of example, base stations **616** may be a base transceiver station (BTS), a Node-B, an eNode B, a Home Node B, a Home eNode B, a site controller, an access point (AP), a wireless router, or the like. While base stations **616** are each depicted

as a single element, it will be appreciated that base stations **616** may include any number of interconnected base stations or network elements.

RAN **604** may include one or more base stations **616**, along with other network elements (not shown), such as a base station controller (BSC), a radio network controller (RNC), or relay nodes. One or more base stations **616** may be configured to transmit or receive wireless signals within a particular geographic region, which may be referred to as a cell (not shown). The cell may further be divided into cell sectors. For example, the cell associated with base station **616** may be divided into three sectors such that base station **616** may include three transceivers: one for each sector of the cell. In another example, base station **616** may employ multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) technology and, therefore, may utilize multiple transceivers for each sector of the cell.

Base stations **616** may communicate with one or more of WTRUs **602** over air interface **614**, which may be any suitable wireless communication link (e.g., RF, microwave, infrared (IR), ultraviolet (UV), or visible light). Air interface **614** may be established using any suitable radio access technology (RAT).

More specifically, as noted above, telecommunication system **600** may be a multiple access system and may employ one or more channel access schemes, such as CDMA, TDMA, FDMA, OFDMA, SC-FDMA, or the like. For example, base station **616** in RAN **604** and WTRUs **602** connected to RAN **604** may implement a radio technology such as Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) Terrestrial Radio Access (UTRA) that may establish air interface **614** using wideband CDMA (WCDMA). WCDMA may include communication protocols, such as High-Speed Packet Access (HSPA) or Evolved HSPA (HSPA+). HSPA may include High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) or High-Speed Uplink Packet Access (HSUPA).

As another example base station **616** and WTRUs **602** that are connected to RAN **604** may implement a radio technology such as Evolved UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA), which may establish air interface **614** using LTE or LTE-Advanced (LTE-A).

Optionally base station **616** and WTRUs **602** connected to RAN **604** may implement radio technologies such as IEEE 802.11 (i.e., Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX)), CDMA2000, CDMA2000 1X, CDMA2000 EV-DO, Interim Standard 2000 (IS-2000), Interim Standard 95 (IS-95), Interim Standard 856 (IS-856), GSM, Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE), GSM EDGE (GERAN), or the like.

Base station **616** may be a wireless router, Home Node B, Home eNode B, or access point, for example, and may utilize any suitable RAT for facilitating wireless connectivity in a localized area, such as a place of business, a home, a vehicle, a campus, or the like. For example, base station **616** and associated WTRUs **602** may implement a radio technology such as IEEE 802.11 to establish a wireless local area network (WLAN). As another example, base station **616** and associated WTRUs **602** may implement a radio technology such as IEEE 802.15 to establish a wireless personal area network (WPAN). In yet another example, base station **616** and associated WTRUs **602** may utilize a cellular-based RAT (e.g., WCDMA, CDMA2000, GSM, LTE, LTE-A, etc.) to establish a picocell or femtocell. As shown in FIG. 6, base station **616** may have a direct connection to Internet **610**. Thus, base station **616** may not be required to access Internet **610** via core network **606**.

RAN **604** may be in communication with core network **606**, which may be any type of network configured to provide voice, data, applications, and/or voice over internet protocol (VoIP) services to one or more WTRUs **602**. For example, core network **606** may provide call control, billing services, mobile location-based services, pre-paid calling, Internet connectivity, video distribution or high-level security functions, such as user authentication. Although not shown in FIG. 6, it will be appreciated that RAN **604** or core network **606** may be in direct or indirect communication with other RANs that employ the same RAT as RAN **604** or a different RAT. For example, in addition to being connected to RAN **604**, which may be utilizing an E-UTRA radio technology, core network **606** may also be in communication with another RAN (not shown) employing a GSM radio technology.

Core network **606** may also serve as a gateway for WTRUs **602** to access PSTN **608**, Internet **610**, or other networks **612**. PSTN **608** may include circuit-switched telephone networks that provide plain old telephone service (POTS). For LTE core networks, core network **606** may use IMS core **614** to provide access to PSTN **608**. Internet **610** may include a global system of interconnected computer networks or devices that use common communication protocols, such as the transmission control protocol (TCP), user datagram protocol (UDP), or IP in the TCP/IP internet protocol suite. Other networks **612** may include wired or wireless communications networks owned or operated by other service providers. For example, other networks **612** may include another core network connected to one or more RANs, which may employ the same RAT as RAN **604** or a different RAT.

Some or all WTRUs **602** in telecommunication system **600** may include multi-mode capabilities. That is, WTRUs **602** may include multiple transceivers for communicating with different wireless networks over different wireless links. For example, one or more WTRUs **602** may be configured to communicate with base station **616**, which may employ a cellular-based radio technology, and with base station **616**, which may employ an IEEE 802 radio technology.

FIG. 7 is an example system **400** including RAN **604** and core network **606**. As noted above, RAN **604** may employ an E-UTRA radio technology to communicate with WTRUs **602** over air interface **614**. RAN **604** may also be in communication with core network **606**.

RAN **604** may include any number of eNode-Bs **702** while remaining consistent with the disclosed technology. One or more eNode-Bs **702** may include one or more transceivers for communicating with the WTRUs **602** over air interface **614**. Optionally, eNode-Bs **702** may implement MIMO technology. Thus, one of eNode-Bs **702**, for example, may use multiple antennas to transmit wireless signals to, or receive wireless signals from, one of WTRUs **602**.

Each of eNode-Bs **702** may be associated with a particular cell (not shown) and may be configured to handle radio resource management decisions, handover decisions, scheduling of users in the uplink or downlink, or the like. As shown in FIG. 7 eNode-Bs **702** may communicate with one another over an X2 interface.

Core network **606** shown in FIG. 7 may include a mobility management gateway or entity (MME) **704**, a serving gateway **706**, or a packet data network (PDN) gateway **708**. While each of the foregoing elements are depicted as part of

core network **606**, it will be appreciated that any one of these elements may be owned or operated by an entity other than the core network operator.

MME **704** may be connected to each of eNode-Bs **702** in RAN **604** via an S1 interface and may serve as a control node. For example, MME **704** may be responsible for authenticating users of WTRUs **602**, bearer activation or deactivation, selecting a particular serving gateway during an initial attach of WTRUs **602**, or the like. MME **704** may also provide a control plane function for switching between RAN **604** and other RANs (not shown) that employ other radio technologies, such as GSM or WCDMA.

Serving gateway **706** may be connected to each of eNode-Bs **702** in RAN **604** via the S1 interface. Serving gateway **706** may generally route or forward user data packets to or from the WTRUs **602**. Serving gateway **706** may also perform other functions, such as anchoring user planes during inter-eNode B handovers, triggering paging when downlink data is available for WTRUs **602**, managing or storing contexts of WTRUs **602**, or the like.

Serving gateway **706** may also be connected to PDN gateway **708**, which may provide WTRUs **602** with access to packet-switched networks, such as Internet **610**, to facilitate communications between WTRUs **602** and IP-enabled devices.

Core network **606** may facilitate communications with other networks. For example, core network **606** may provide WTRUs **602** with access to circuit-switched networks, such as PSTN **608**, such as through IMS core **614**, to facilitate communications between WTRUs **602** and traditional land-line communications devices. In addition, core network **606** may provide the WTRUs **602** with access to other networks **612**, which may include other wired or wireless networks that are owned or operated by other service providers.

FIG. 8 depicts an overall block diagram of an example packet-based mobile cellular network environment, such as a GPRS network as described herein. In the example packet-based mobile cellular network environment shown in FIG. 8, there are a plurality of base station subsystems (BSS) **800** (only one is shown), each of which comprises a base station controller (BSC) **802** serving a plurality of BTSs, such as BTSs **804**, **806**, **808**. BTSs **804**, **806**, **808** are the access points where users of packet-based mobile devices become connected to the wireless network. In example fashion, the packet traffic originating from mobile devices is transported via an over-the-air interface to BTS **808**, and from BTS **808** to BSC **802**. Base station subsystems, such as BSS **800**, are a part of internal frame relay network **810** that can include a service GPRS support nodes (SGSN), such as SGSN **812** or SGSN **814**. Each SGSN **812**, **814** is connected to an internal packet network **816** through which SGSN **812**, **814** can route data packets to or from a plurality of gateway GPRS support nodes (GGSN) **818**, **820**, **822**. As illustrated, SGSN **814** and GGSNs **818**, **820**, **822** are part of internal packet network **816**. GGSNs **818**, **820**, **822** mainly provide an interface to external IP networks such as PLMN **824**, corporate intranets/internets **826**, or Fixed-End System (FES) or the public Internet **828**. As illustrated, subscriber corporate network **826** may be connected to GGSN **820** via a firewall **830**. PLMN **824** may be connected to GGSN **820** via a boarder gateway router (BGR) **832**. A Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) server **834** may be used for caller authentication when a user calls corporate network **826**.

Generally, there may be a several cell sizes in a network, referred to as macro, micro, pico, femto or umbrella cells. The coverage area of each cell is different in different

environments. Macro cells can be regarded as cells in which the base station antenna is installed in a mast or a building above average roof top level. Micro cells are cells whose antenna height is under average roof top level. Micro cells are typically used in urban areas. Pico cells are small cells having a diameter of a few dozen meters. Pico cells are used mainly indoors. Femto cells have the same size as pico cells, but a smaller transport capacity. Femto cells are used indoors, in residential or small business environments. On the other hand, umbrella cells are used to cover shadowed regions of smaller cells and fill in gaps in coverage between those cells.

FIG. 9 illustrates an architecture of a typical GPRS network 900 as described herein. The architecture depicted in FIG. 9 may be segmented into four groups: users 902, RAN 904, core network 906, and interconnect network 908. Users 902 comprise a plurality of end users, who each may use one or more devices 910. Note that device 910 is referred to as a mobile subscriber (MS) in the description of network shown in FIG. 9. In an example, device 910 comprises a communications device (e.g., first network device 1, second network device 2, mobile positioning center 116, network device 300, any of detected devices 500, second device 508, access device 604, access device 606, access device 608, access device 610 or the like, or any combination thereof). Radio access network 904 comprises a plurality of BSSs such as BSS 912, which includes a BTS 914 and a BSC 916. Core network 906 may include a host of various network elements. As illustrated in FIG. 9, core network 906 may comprise MSC 918, service control point (SCP) 920, gateway MSC (GMSC) 922, SGSN 924, home location register (HLR) 926, authentication center (AuC) 928, domain name system (DNS) server 930, and GGSN 932. Interconnect network 908 may also comprise a host of various networks or other network elements. As illustrated in FIG. 9, interconnect network 908 comprises a PSTN 934, an FES/Internet 936, a firewall 1038, or a corporate network 940.

An MSC can be connected to a large number of BSCs. At MSC 918, for instance, depending on the type of traffic, the traffic may be separated in that voice may be sent to PSTN 934 through GMSC 922, or data may be sent to SGSN 924, which then sends the data traffic to GGSN 932 for further forwarding.

When MSC 918 receives call traffic, for example, from BSC 916, it sends a query to a database hosted by SCP 920, which processes the request and issues a response to MSC 918 so that it may continue call processing as appropriate.

HLR 926 is a centralized database for users to register to the GPRS network. HLR 926 stores static information about the subscribers such as the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), subscribed services, or a key for authenticating the subscriber. HLR 926 also stores dynamic subscriber information such as the current location of the MS. Associated with HLR 926 is AuC 928, which is a database that contains the algorithms for authenticating subscribers and includes the associated keys for encryption to safeguard the user input for authentication.

In the following, depending on context, "mobile subscriber" or "MS" sometimes refers to the end user and sometimes to the actual portable device, such as a mobile device, used by an end user of the mobile cellular service. When a mobile subscriber turns on his or her mobile device, the mobile device goes through an attach process by which the mobile device attaches to an SGSN of the GPRS network. In FIG. 9, when MS 910 initiates the attach process by turning on the network capabilities of the mobile device, an attach request is sent by MS 910 to SGSN 924. The

SGSN 924 queries another SGSN, to which MS 910 was attached before, for the identity of MS 910. Upon receiving the identity of MS 910 from the other SGSN, SGSN 924 requests more information from MS 910. This information is used to authenticate MS 910 together with the information provided by HLR 926. Once verified, SGSN 924 sends a location update to HLR 926 indicating the change of location to a new SGSN, in this case SGSN 924. HLR 926 notifies the old SGSN, to which MS 910 was attached before, to cancel the location process for MS 910. HLR 926 then notifies SGSN 924 that the location update has been performed. At this time, SGSN 924 sends an Attach Accept message to MS 910, which in turn sends an Attach Complete message to SGSN 924.

Next, MS 910 establishes a user session with the destination network, corporate network 940, by going through a Packet Data Protocol (PDP) activation process. Briefly, in the process, MS 910 requests access to the Access Point Name (APN), for example, UPS.com, and SGSN 924 receives the activation request from MS 910. SGSN 924 then initiates a DNS query to learn which GGSN 932 has access to the UPS.com APN. The DNS query is sent to a DNS server within core network 906, such as DNS server 930, which is provisioned to map to one or more GGSNs in core network 906. Based on the APN, the mapped GGSN 932 can access requested corporate network 940. SGSN 924 then sends to GGSN 932 a Create PDP Context Request message that contains necessary information. GGSN 932 sends a Create PDP Context Response message to SGSN 924, which then sends an Activate PDP Context Accept message to MS 910.

Once activated, data packets of the call made by MS 910 can then go through RAN 904, core network 906, and interconnect network 908, in a particular FES/Internet 936 and firewall 1038, to reach corporate network 940.

FIG. 10 illustrates a PLMN block diagram view of an example architecture that may be replaced by a telecommunications system. In FIG. 10, solid lines may represent user traffic signals, and dashed lines may represent support signaling. MS 1002 is the physical equipment used by the PLMN subscriber. For example, drone 102, network device 300, the like, or any combination thereof may serve as MS 1002. MS 1002 may be one of, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, a cellular telephone in combination with another electronic device or any other wireless mobile communication device.

MS 1002 may communicate wirelessly with BSS 1004. BSS 1004 contains BSC 1006 and a BTS 1008. BSS 1004 may include a single BSC 1006/BTS 1008 pair (base station) or a system of BSC/BTS pairs that are part of a larger network. BSS 1004 is responsible for communicating with MS 1002 and may support one or more cells. BSS 1004 is responsible for handling cellular traffic and signaling between MS 1002 and a core network 1010. Typically, BSS 1004 performs functions that include, but are not limited to, digital conversion of speech channels, allocation of channels to mobile devices, paging, or transmission/reception of cellular signals.

Additionally, MS 1002 may communicate wirelessly with RNS 1012. RNS 1012 contains a Radio Network Controller (RNC) 1014 and one or more Nodes B 1016. RNS 1012 may support one or more cells. RNS 1012 may also include one or more RNC 1014/Node B 1016 pairs or alternatively a single RNC 1014 may manage multiple Nodes B 1016. RNS 1012 is responsible for communicating with MS 1002 in its geographically defined area. RNC 1014 is responsible for controlling Nodes B 1016 that are connected to it and is a

control element in a UMTS radio access network. RNC **1014** performs functions such as, but not limited to, load control, packet scheduling, handover control, security functions, or controlling MS **1002** access to core network **1010**.

An E-UTRA Network (E-UTRAN) **1018** is a RAN that provides wireless data communications for MS **1002** and UE **1024**. E-UTRAN **1018** provides higher data rates than traditional UMTS. It is part of the LTE upgrade for mobile networks, and later releases meet the requirements of the International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) Advanced and are commonly known as a 4G networks. E-UTRAN **1018** may include of series of logical network components such as E-UTRAN Node B (eNB) **1020** and E-UTRAN Node B (eNB) **1022**. E-UTRAN **1018** may contain one or more eNBs. User equipment (UE) **1024** may be any mobile device capable of connecting to E-UTRAN **1018** including, but not limited to, a personal computer, laptop, mobile device, wireless router, or other device capable of wireless connectivity to E-UTRAN **1018**. The improved performance of the E-UTRAN **1018** relative to a typical UMTS network allows for increased bandwidth, spectral efficiency, and functionality including, but not limited to, voice, high-speed applications, large data transfer or IPTV, while still allowing for full mobility.

Typically MS **1002** may communicate with any or all of BSS **1004**, RNS **1012**, or E-UTRAN **1018**. In a illustrative system, each of BSS **1004**, RNS **1012**, and E-UTRAN **1018** may provide MS **1002** with access to core network **1010**. Core network **1010** may include of a series of devices that route data and communications between end users. Core network **1010** may provide network service functions to users in the circuit switched (CS) domain or the packet switched (PS) domain. The CS domain refers to connections in which dedicated network resources are allocated at the time of connection establishment and then released when the connection is terminated. The PS domain refers to communications and data transfers that make use of autonomous groupings of bits called packets. Each packet may be routed, manipulated, processed or handled independently of all other packets in the PS domain and does not require dedicated network resources.

The circuit-switched MGW function (CS-MGW) **1026** is part of core network **1010**, and interacts with VLR/MSC server **1028** and GMSC server **1030** in order to facilitate core network **1010** resource control in the CS domain. Functions of CS-MGW **1026** include, but are not limited to, media conversion, bearer control, payload processing or other mobile network processing such as handover or anchoring. CS-MGW **1026** may receive connections to MS **1002** through BSS **1004** or RNS **1012**.

SGSN **1032** stores subscriber data regarding MS **1002** in order to facilitate network functionality. SGSN **1032** may store subscription information such as, but not limited to, the IMSI, temporary identities, or PDP addresses. SGSN **1032** may also store location information such as, but not limited to, GGSN address for each GGSN **1034** where an active PDP exists. GGSN **1034** may implement a location register function to store subscriber data it receives from SGSN **1032** such as subscription or location information.

Serving gateway (S-GW) **1036** is an interface which provides connectivity between E-UTRAN **1018** and core network **1010**. Functions of S-GW **1036** include, but are not limited to, packet routing, packet forwarding, transport level packet processing, or user plane mobility anchoring for inter-network mobility. PCRF **1038** uses information gathered from P-GW **1036**, as well as other sources, to make applicable policy and charging decisions related to data

flows, network resources or other network administration functions. PDN gateway (PDN-GW) **1040** may provide user-to-services connectivity functionality including, but not limited to, GPRS/EPC network anchoring, bearer session anchoring and control, or IP address allocation for PS domain connections.

HSS **1042** is a database for user information and stores subscription data regarding MS **1002** or UE **1024** for handling calls or data sessions. Networks may contain one HSS **1042** or more if additional resources are required. Example data stored by HSS **1042** include, but is not limited to, user identification, numbering or addressing information, security information, or location information. HSS **1042** may also provide call or session establishment procedures in both the PS and CS domains.

VLR/MSC Server **1028** provides user location functionality. When MS **1002** enters a new network location, it begins a registration procedure. A MSC server for that location transfers the location information to the VLR for the area. A VLR and MSC server may be located in the same computing environment, as is shown by VLR/MSC server **1028**, or alternatively may be located in separate computing environments. A VLR may contain, but is not limited to, user information such as the IMSI, the Temporary Mobile Station Identity (TMSI), the Local Mobile Station Identity (LMSI), the last known location of the mobile station, or the SGSN where the mobile station was previously registered. The MSC server may contain information such as, but not limited to, procedures for MS **1002** registration or procedures for handover of MS **1002** to a different section of core network **1010**. GMSC server **1030** may serve as a connection to alternate GMSC servers for other MSs in larger networks.

EIR **1044** is a logical element which may store the IMEI for MS **1002**. User equipment may be classified as either “white listed” or “black listed” depending on its status in the network. If MS **1002** is stolen and put to use by an unauthorized user, it may be registered as “black listed” in EIR **1044**, preventing its use on the network. A MME **1046** is a control node which may track MS **1002** or UE **1024** if the devices are idle. Additional functionality may include the ability of MME **1046** to contact idle MS **1002** or UE **1024** if retransmission of a previous session is required.

As described herein, a telecommunications system wherein management and control utilizing a software designed network (SDN) and a simple IP are based, at least in part, on user equipment, may provide a wireless management and control framework that enables common wireless management and control, such as mobility management, radio resource management, QoS, load balancing, etc., across many wireless technologies, e.g. LTE, Wi-Fi, and future 5G access technologies; decoupling the mobility control from data planes to let them evolve and scale independently; reducing network state maintained in the network based on user equipment types to reduce network cost and allow massive scale; shortening cycle time and improving network upgradability; flexibility in creating end-to-end services based on types of user equipment and applications, thus improve customer experience; or improving user equipment power efficiency and battery life—especially for simple M2M devices—through enhanced wireless management.

While examples of a telecommunications system in which emergency alerts can be processed and managed have been described in connection with various computing devices/processors, the underlying concepts may be applied to any computing device, processor, or system capable of facilitat-

ing a telecommunications system. The various techniques described herein may be implemented in connection with hardware or software or, where appropriate, with a combination of both. Thus, the methods and devices may take the form of program code (i.e., instructions) embodied in concrete, tangible, storage media having a concrete, tangible, physical structure. Examples of tangible storage media include floppy diskettes, CD-ROMs, DVDs, hard drives, or any other tangible machine-readable storage medium (computer-readable storage medium). Thus, a computer-readable storage medium is not a signal. A computer-readable storage medium is not a transient signal. Further, a computer-readable storage medium is not a propagating signal. A computer-readable storage medium as described herein is an article of manufacture. When the program code is loaded into and executed by a machine, such as a computer, the machine becomes an device for telecommunications. In the case of program code execution on programmable computers, the computing device will generally include a processor, a storage medium readable by the processor (including volatile or nonvolatile memory or storage elements), at least one input device, and at least one output device. The program(s) can be implemented in assembly or machine language, if desired. The language can be a compiled or interpreted language, and may be combined with hardware implementations.

The methods and devices associated with a telecommunications system as described herein also may be practiced via communications embodied in the form of program code that is transmitted over some transmission medium, such as over electrical wiring or cabling, through fiber optics, or via any other form of transmission, wherein, when the program code is received and loaded into and executed by a machine, such as an EPROM, a gate array, a programmable logic device (PLD), a client computer, or the like, the machine becomes an device for implementing telecommunications as described herein. When implemented on a general-purpose processor, the program code combines with the processor to provide a unique device that operates to invoke the functionality of a telecommunications system.

While a telecommunications system has been described in connection with the various examples of the various figures, it is to be understood that other similar implementations may be used or modifications and additions may be made to the described examples of a telecommunications system without deviating therefrom. For example, one skilled in the art will recognize that a telecommunications system as described in the instant application may apply to any environment, whether wired or wireless, and may be applied to any number of such devices connected via a communications network and interacting across the network. Therefore, a telecommunications system as described herein should not be limited to any single example, but rather should be construed in breadth and scope in accordance with the appended claims.

What is claimed:

1. A method comprising:

detecting initiation by a first device on a first network of an internet protocol (IP) connection with a second device on a second network, wherein the first network includes a plurality of egress devices that are configured to send requests for inter-network connection information;
selecting a subset of the egress devices, wherein each of the subset of egress devices are configured to query for connection information relating to the second network;

causing the subset of devices to query the at least one other network for the connection information relating to the second network;
receiving the connection information relating to the second network; and
causing the connection information to be used in establishing the IP connection between the first device and the second device;
measuring traffic between the first network and the second network;
comparing a measurement of the traffic to a predetermined threshold; and
configuring the subset based on the comparison through adding egress devices to the subset if the measurement is greater than the predetermined threshold.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that the first device and the second device are on different networks;
determining to query the second network based on information relating to at least one of the first device, the second device, and network criteria.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the information relating to at least one of the first device and the second device comprises at least one of a first device identifier, a first device location, a first device service type, second device identifier, a second device location, and a second device location.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the network criteria comprises at least one of connection cost, time of day, and connection priority.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of configuring the sub set comprises:
removing egress devices from the subset if the measurement is less than the predetermined threshold.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the connection information comprises:
receiving connection information from a third network;
using the connection information from the third network to request connection information from the second network.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the third network is an IP exchange (IPX) network.

8. The method of 1, wherein the step of detecting initiation comprises:
receiving identifying information of the second device;
comparing the identifying information to a private E.164 Number Mapping (ENUM) database;
determining from the comparison that the second device is on the second network.

9. An apparatus comprising:
a processor; and
memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising executable instructions that cause the processor to effectuate operations comprising:
detecting initiation by a first device on a first network of an internet protocol (IP) connection with a second device on a second network, wherein the first network includes a plurality of egress devices that are configured to send requests for inter-network connection information;
selecting a subset of the egress devices, wherein each of the subset of egress devices are configured to query for connection information relating to the second network;
causing the subset of devices to query the at least one other network for the connection information relating to the second network;

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receiving the connection information relating to the second network; and
 causing the connection information to be used in establishing the IP connection between the first device and the second device;
 measuring traffic between the first network and the second network;
 comparing a measurement of the traffic to a predetermined threshold; and
 configuring the subset based on the comparison through adding egress devices to the subset if the measurement is greater than the predetermined threshold.

10. The apparatus of claim **9**, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining that the first device and the second device are on different networks;

determining to query the second network based on information relating to at least one of the first device, the second device, and network criteria.

11. The apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the information relating to at least one of the first device and the second device comprises at least one of a first device identifier, a first device location, a first device service type, second device identifier, a second device location, and a second device location.

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12. The apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the network criteria comprises at least one of connection cost, time of day, and connection priority.

13. The apparatus of claim **9**, wherein the operation of configuring the subset comprises:

removing egress devices from the subset if the measurement is less than the predetermined threshold.

14. The apparatus of claim **9**, wherein the operation of receiving the connection information comprises:

receiving connection information from a third network;
 using the connection information from the third network to request connection information from the second network.

15. The apparatus of claim **14**, wherein the third network is an IP exchange (IPX) network.

16. The apparatus of **9**, wherein the operation of detecting initiation comprises:

receiving identifying information of the second device;
 comparing the identifying information to a private E.164 Number Mapping (ENUM) database;

determining from the comparison that the second device is on the second network.

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